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PROCEEDINGS OF 70*th* NATIONAL CONVENTION *of the* AMERICAN LEGION

Louisville, Kentucky

September 6-8, 1988

FEBRUARY 6, 1989.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Washington, DC, January 30, 1989

Hon. JAMES C. WRIGHT, JR.,
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In compliance with current public law we herewith transmit for printing as a House document a financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of our 70th annual National Convention, and a report on our organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention.

Sincerely,

E. PHILIP RIGGIN,
Director, National Legislative Commission.

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NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 to 1988

NOTE.—In the following list is should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed

* indicates deceased.

HONORARY COMMANDERS

General John J. Pershing*

Marshall Ferdinand Foch*

PARIS CAUCUS

Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1926 National Convention.)
Chairman Pro Tempore: Thomas W. Miller*, Delaware. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1968 National Convention.)
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania. At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:
Chairman: Milton J. Foreman*, Illinois. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)
Secretary: George A. White*, Oregon.

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

St. Louis, Missouri, May 8 to 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.*, New York. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 31st Annual National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas.
Vice Chairman: John J. Sullivan*, Washington;, Fred Humphrey, New Mexico; P.C. Calhoun*, Connecticut. (Voted Titles of Past National Vice Commanders at 1933 National Convention.)
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania.
Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention.)

FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10 to 12, 1919

Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1919 National Convention.)
Vice Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri.
Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania.
Treasurer: Gasper G. Bacon*, Massachusetts.
Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado.

SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 27 to 29, 1920

Commander: Franklin D'Olier*, Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: James O'Brien*, California; Allen Tukey*, Nebraska; Joyce S. Lewis*, Minnesota; Alden B. Chambers, Massachusetts; William Follett*, Oregon.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Chaplain: Rev. Francis A. Kelly*, New York.

THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, October 31 to November 2, 1921

Commander: Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr.*, Ohio (killed June 9), succeeded by John G. Emery*, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: John G. Emery*, Michigan; Thomas Goldingay*, New Jersey; Claudius G. Pendill*, Wisconsin; James G. Schrugham*, Nevada; E. Jackson Winslet*, Alabama.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John W. Inzer*, Tennessee.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16 to 20, 1922

Commander: Hanford MacNider*, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: H. Nelson Jackson*, Vermont; George L. Berry*, Tennessee; Raymond O. Brackett*, Masachussetts; Charles H. Kindrick, California; John A. McCormick*, Colorado.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Earl A. Blackman*, Kansas.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, October 16 to 19, 1923

Commander: Alvin Owsley*, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Barrett*, Wisconsin; Watson B. Miller*, District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr.*, Georgia; Robert O. Blood*, New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Wm. F. O'Connor*, Ohio.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15 to 19, 1924

Commander: John R. Quinn*, California.
Vice Commanders: Lester Albert*, Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard*, Arizona; William B. Healey*, Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duffy*, Wisconsin; Dr. I. Thurman Mann*, North Carolina.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Ezra Clemens*, Minnesota.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, October 5 to 9, 1925

Commander: James A. Drain*, Washington.
Vice Commanders: Frank H. McFarland*, Kansas; Eugene P. Armstrong*, Connecticut; A.L. Perry*, Panama; Payton H. Hoge, Jr.*, Kentucky; William Stern*, North Dakota.

Adjutant: Russell G. Creviston*, Indiana (resigned), succeeded by James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan*, Illinois.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 11 to 15, 1926

Commander: John R. McQuizz*, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney*, Florida; Hughes B. Davis*, Oklahoma; Vincent A. Carroll*, Pennsylvania; Raymond B. Littlefield*, Rhode Island; James A. Howell*, Utah.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Wm. E. Patrick*, California.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

NINTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York City, New York, October 18, 1927

Paris, France, September 19 to 22, 1927

Commander: Howard P. Savage*, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: C. Thomas Busha, Jr.*, Montana; Stafford King*, Minnesota; John G. Sims, Tennessee; John E. Curtiss*, Nebraska; John G. Towne*, Maine.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph L.N. Wolfe*, Pennsylvania.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana.

10th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, October 8 to 11, 1928

Commander: Edward E. Spafford*, New York.
Vice Commanders: John T. Rafts, Washington; Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas; Paul R. Younts*, North Carolina; Dan Spurlock*, Louisiana; John M. Henry*, Minnesota.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson*, New Jersey.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois.

11th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 30 to October 2, 1929

Commander: Paul V. McNutt*, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr.*, Illinois; George W. Malone*, Nevada; Edward L. White*, Connecticut; Miller C. Foster, South Carolina; Walton D. Hood*, Texas.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger*, Ohio.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucus*, Illinois.

12th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, October 6 to 9, 1930

Commander: O.L. Bodenhammer*, Arkansas.

Vice Commanders: Milt D. Campbell*, Ohio; John J. Dugan*, Delaware; Morton M. David*, Colorado; Frank Schoble, Jr.*, Pennsylvania; Willis M. Brewer, Michigan.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. George K. Kettell*, D.D., New York.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana,*
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucus*, Illinois.

13th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Detroit, Michigan, September 21 to 24, 1931

Commander: Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: Bert S. Hyland*, Vermont; Roland B. Howell*, Louisiana; Harry B. Henderson, Jr.*, Wyoming; Dr. James A. Duff*, West Virginia; Dr. Neal D. Williams*, Missouri.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Jos. N. Barnett, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucus*, Illinois.

14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, September 12 to 15, 1932 .

Commander: Henry L. Stevens, Jr.*, North Carolina.
Vice Commanders: Richard F. Paul*, Massachusetts; Forest G. Cooper*, Mississippi; Roy L. Cook*, New Mexico; Frank N. Brooks*, Washington; Harold L. Plummer*, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. H.A. Darche*, Illinois.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

15th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, October 2 to 59, 1933

Commander: Louis Johnson*, West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Russell Meadows*, Arizona; Robert D. Flory*, Nebraska; Wm. Easterwood*, Texas; John J. Maloney*, Maine; Chas. A. Mills*, Florida.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Irvin Q. Wood*, Idaho.
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana.
Historian: Eben Putman*, Massachusetts* (died January 22, 1933), succeeded by Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

16th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 22 to 25, 1934

Commander: Edward A. Hayes*, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Charles R. Mabey*, Utah; Robert L. Gordon, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz*, Puerto Rico; Ed W. Carruth*, Kansas; Charles L. Woolley*, Rhode Island.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White*, Massachusetts.
Historian: Thomas M. Owens, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana.

17th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, September 23 to 26, 1935

Commander: Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.*, California.
Vice Commanders: Daniel J. Doherty*, Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner*, Oregon; John K. Kennelly*, North Dakota; Milo J. Warner*, Ohio; Quimby Melton*, Georgia.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Park W. Huntington*, Delaware.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: James A. Drain*, Washington.
Judge Advocate: James A. Drain*, Washington.

18th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, September 21 to 24, 1936

Commander: Ray Murphy*, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: Raymond F. Gates*, Connecticut; Dr. W.E. Whitlock*, Florida; Oscar W. Worthwine, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Virginia; Louis R. Probst*, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Thos. D. Kennedy*, Missouri.
Historian: Thomas D. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

19th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, September 20 to 23, 1937

Commander: Harry W. Colmery*, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: Salvatore Capodice*, California; Leo A. Temmey*, South Dakota; Leonard Sisk*, Tennessee; J. Fred Johnson, Jr.*, Alabama; Jack Crowley*, Vermont.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Bryan H. Keathley*, Texas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

20th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 19 to 22, 1938

Commander: Daniel J. Doherty*, Massachusetts.
Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips*, Texas; Phil Conley*, West Virginia; Harry M. Johnson*, Montana; James F. Daniel, Jr.*, South Carolina; James R. Mahaffey*, Hawaii.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Frank J. Lawler*, Illinois.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

21st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 25 to 28, 1939

Commander: Stephen F. Chadwick*, Washington.
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Quinn*, Maine; Charles W. Crush, Virginia; Earl T. Ross*, Nevada; James T. Crawley*, Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey*, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerome L. Fritsche*, Nebraska.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

22nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, September 23 to 26, 1940

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: Leo E. Ray*, New Hampshire; Charles Q. Kelly*, Arkansas; Matthew J. Murphy*, Illinois; James B. Fitzgerald*, Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis, Colorado.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Patrick N. McDermott*, Iowa.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

23rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15 to 18, 1941

Commander: Milo J. Warner*, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd, Wyoming; James L. McCrory*, Nebraska; Harold P. Redden*, Massachusetts; Edward R. Stirling*, Pennsylvania; Alice S. Legendre*, Louisiana.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Brigadier William G. Gilks, Texas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owens, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

24th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Missouri, September 19 to 21, 1942

Commander: Lynn U. Stambaugh*, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: W.C. Sawyer*, Arizona; DeLacy Allen*, Georgia; Charles E. Booth*, West Virginia; V.M. Armstrong*, Indiana; John F. Sullivan*, Vermont.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Frederick J. Halloran*, New Jersey.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

25th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Nebraska, September 21 to 23, 1943

Commander: Roane Waring*, Tennessee.
Vice Commanders: John T. Batten*, Alabama; Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut; Fred G. Fraser*, District of Columbia; Herman H. Lark*, Missouri; Jefferson Davis Atwood*, New Mexico.
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas* (died July 25), succeeded by Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan, Acting Adjutant.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul De Forrest Mortimore*, Idaho.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

26th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 18 to 20, 1944

Commander: Warren H. Atherton*, California.
Vice Commanders: Martin V. Coffey*, Ohio; M.E. Littlefield*, Utah; Robert "LeRoy" McMillian*, North Carolina; Edward Al Mulrooney, Delaware; Hector G. Staples*, Maine.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul F. McManus*, Kansas.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

27th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, November 18 to 21, 1945

Commander: Edward N. Scheiberling*, New York.
Vice Commanders: Bascom F. Jones*, Tennessee; Frank E. McCuffrey, Rhode Island; Dan M. McDade*, Oregon; Ray S. Plerson*, Kansas; William P. Shadoan*, Kentucky.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. DeWitt C. Mallory*, Florida.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: John Ruddick*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

28th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, California, September 30 to October 4, 1946

Commander: John Stelle*, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: R. Graham Huntington*, New Jersey; Fred LaBoon, Oklahoma; Sam L. Latimer, Jr.*, South Carolina; H. Dudley Swim*, Idaho; Jeremiah Twomey*, Massachusetts.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith*, Iowa.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

29th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 28 to 31, 1947

Commander: Paul H. Griffith*, Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown*, New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner, Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader, Louisiana; Earnest H. Derishian, Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey, California.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan.
Chaplain: Rev. Arthur L. Rustad*, Minnesota.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

30th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 18 to 20, 1948

Commander: James F. O'Neill*, New Hampshire.
Vice Commanders: L.W. Barns, South Dakota; Albert A. Cree*, Vermont; Richard B. Ott, Washington; Myron R. Renick, West Virginia; Joe W. White, Georgia.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Frank L. Harrington*, Montana.
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr.*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

31st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 29 to September 1, 1949

Commander: Perry Brown, Texas.
Vice Commanders: James Lane, Alabama; Leonard W. Moody*, Arkansas; James Annin; Walter E. Alessandroni*, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Harry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice*, California.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

32nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, October 9 to 12, 1950

Commander: George N. Craig, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock, Minnesota; David H. Fleisher*, Missouri; Frank E. Lowe, Maine; J.E. Martie, Nevada; Dr. D.R. Perry*, North Carolina.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Edward J. Carney*, O.S.A., Massachusetts.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

33rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 15 to 18, 1951

Commander: Earl Cocke, Jr., Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Joe Adama*, Florida; Herbert J. Jacobi*, District of Columbia; Felix Pogliano*, Colorado; Lewis K. Gough*, California; Fred C. Bramlage, Kansas.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Louisiana.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

34th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, New York, August 25 to 28, 1952

Commander: Donald B. Wilson, West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer, Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley, Massachusetts; Thomas E. Paradine*, New York; Oscar B. Rohiff*, Wyoming; Audrey H. Ward*, South Carolina.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland*, Wisconsin.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

35th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Missouri, August 31 to September 3, 1953

Commander: Lewis K. Gough*, California.
Vice Commanders: William R. Bourdon*, Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon*, Mississippi; Wilbur C. Daniel*, Virginia; Harry V. Groome*, New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner*, Michigan.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Father John E. Duff*, Ohio.
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

36th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 2, 1954

Commander: Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut.
Vice Commanders: John A. High*, New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Reed*, New Mexico; Truman C. Wold, North Dakota; Thomas W. Bird*, North Carolina.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark*, Oklahoma.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

37th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Florida, October 10 to 13, 1955

Commander: Seaborn P. Collins, New Mexico.
Vice Commanders: Leonard L. Jackson*, Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom*, Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees*, Delaware; Robert L. Shelby, Utah.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffmann*, Iowa.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

38th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, California, September 3 to 6, 1956

Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: Guy Stone*, Georgia; John G. Van Horn*, Alaska; L. Everett Page, Texas; Gilman H. Stordock*, Wisconsin; James V. Day*, Maine* (resigned Jan. 1, 1956), succeeded by William J. Holliman, District of Columbia.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska* (resigned), succeeded by E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph MacCarroll*, New Jersey.
Historian: Monte T. Fairey*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

39th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, New Jersey, September 16 to 19, 1957

Commander: W.C. "Dan" Daniel*, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Gaylor M. Brown*, Iowa; George T. Lewis, Jr., Tennessee; Carl R. Moser*, Oregon; John P. Stay, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter*, Maryland.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Bernark W. Gerdon*, Indiana.
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

40th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, September 1 to 4, 1958

Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: William A. Cottrell*, Territory of Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas, Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller*, West Virginia; Lee A. Lemos, Rhode Island; Isador Levin*, Indiana.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Feltham S. James*, South Carolina.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Neil Grider*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 24 to 27, 1959

Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: C.D. DeLoach, District of Columbia; John W. Collins, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan*, Missouri; Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana; James C. Bangs*, Idaho.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss, Massachusetts.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana.

42nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, October 18 to 20, 1960

Commander: Martin B. McKneally, New York.
Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr., Indiana; A. Layman Harman, South Carolina; Nate V. Keller*, Minnesota; Irven Frank Gianotti*, Minnesota (appointed September 14, 1960 to fill the vacancy created July 25 by the death of Nate V. Keller); Willard W. Brandt, North Dakota; Charles C. McGonegal*, California; Corydon T. Hill*, California (appointed May 4, 1960 to fill the vacancy created on January 27, by the death of Charles McGonegal).
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L., Texas.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

43rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, September 9 to 14, 1961

Commander: William R. Burke, California.
Vice Commanders: George K. Walker, Massachusetts; James M. Wagonseller, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim*, Iowa; Dr. Harry H. Kretzler*, Washington; R.C. Godwin*, North Carolina.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: The Reverend Wm. H. Moss*, Tennessee.
Historian: Glenn B. Hoover*, Iowa.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

44th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nevada, October 5 to 11, 1962

Commander: Charles L. Bacon, Missouri.
Vice Commanders: Walter W. Barnard*, Montana; Edward T. Hoak, Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morrison, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki, New Jersey.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Robert G. Keating*, Connecticut.
Historian: Earl David Young*, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

45th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, September 6 to 12, 1963

Commander: James E. Powers, Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton, District of Columbia; James D. Doon*, New Hampshire; Claude D. Hamilton*, South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese*, Florida; Victor F. Whittlesea*, Nevada.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman, Indiana.
Historian: H. Armand de Masi*.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

46th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, Texas, September 22 to 24, 1964

Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota.
Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias*, Vermont; Garland D. Murphy, Jr., M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple*, Wisconsin; Harry Wright*, Mexico.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. John J. Howard*, Virginia.

Historian: H. Armand de Masi*, Italy.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

47th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 24 to 26, 1965

Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: David Aronberg*, Kentucky; Herbert D. Black*, South Carolina; Ward W. Husted*, Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr., Connecticut; Joseph Paul*, Michigan.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Morris N. Dummet, Louisiana.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

48th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 1, 1966

Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Dr. A.R. Chopping*, Louisiana; William E. Galbraith, Nebraska; Robert O. Phillips*, Philippines; Walter J. Rogers, Maine; Soleng Tom, Arizona.
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming.
Chaplain: The Rev. Alfred C. Thompson, New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

49th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 29 to 31, 1967

Commander: John E. Davis, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz, Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich, Texas; Harry V. Klein, Jr., Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello*, Massachusetts; James A. Tadlock*, New Mexico.
Adjutant: Earnest N. Schmit, North Dakota.
Chaplain: The Rev. Fr. Anthony J. O'Driscoll*, New York.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

50th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, September 6 to 12, 1968

Commander: William E. Galbraith, Nebraska.
Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen, Oklahoma; Louis R.H. Malo, Rhode Island; Roscoe D. Curtiss, Tennessee; Dr. Edwin L. Petersen, Utah; Marvin W. Roth, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward P. Nolan, Pennsylvania.
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

51st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Ga., August 22 to 28, 1969

Commander: William C. Doyle*, New Jersey.
Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber, Arkansas; John A. Jones*, West Virginia; Howard E. Lohman*, Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray, Alabama; Maurice R. Parisien*, Maine.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. C.J. Olander, Mississippi.

Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

52nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon, August 22 to September 3, 1970

Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: Kent T. Lundgren*, Michigan; Roland D. Marble, Mississippi; Raymond F. Mudge, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard, Oregon; Gilberto M. Font, Puerto Rico.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Father William D. Curtis, Minnesota.
Historian: John A. May*, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

53rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 27 to September 2, 1971

Commander: Alfred P. Chamie, California.
Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter, Arkansas; May Hanson, Idaho; Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga, Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust*, North Carolina.
Historian: Howard M. Swinney*, Kentucky.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

54th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 22 to 24, 1972

Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Howard W. Fann, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy, Florida; Roy Sweet, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles, Kansas; Wallace C.S. Young, Hawaii.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul J. Schwaab, Nebraska.
Historian: G. Greer McCallister, Ohio.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

55th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 21 to 23, 1973

Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig, North Carolina; Sam Gray*, California; Donald L. Gruenbaum, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak, South Dakota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. L.O. Fitzpatrick, Iowa.
Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips, California.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

56th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Florida, August 20 to 22, 1974

Commander: Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland.
Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks*, Washington; Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana; Merrick W. Swords, Louisiana; N.E. Brown*, South Carolina.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry, Missouri.

Historian: R. Robert Filter, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

57th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 19 to 21, 1975

Commander: James M. Wagonseller, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens, North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt, Texas; Jay E. Harville, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffrey, Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay, Montana.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling*, Oregon.
Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr., Florida.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

58th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 24 to 26, 1976

Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr., Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr., Nevada; Leo F. Malloy, Massachusetts; Thomas W. Miller, Arkansas; James F. Walker; Minnesota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, Georgia.
Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Crimes, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

59th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colorado, August 23 to 25, 1977

Commander: William J. Rogers, Maine.
Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken, Wisconsin; Thomas B. Coll, District of Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger, Colorado; Frank A. Kelly, Georgia; Wilbur Walker, Virginia.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Fr. James C. Tuxbury, North Dakota.
Historian: Alton H. Carpenter, New York.
Treasurer: Francis Polen*, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

60th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 22 to 24, 1978

Commander: Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana.
Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota; Roger A. Munson, Ohio; John J. O'Connell*, Rhode Island; Chester Phillips, West Virginia; Irving B. Selmer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Walter D. Power, Maryland.
Historian: Arnold J. Stockstad*, North Dakota.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

61st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, August 21 to 23, 1979

Commander: Jack M. Carey, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: L. Max Connoly, Arizona; Alvin F. Grauerholz, Kansas: Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey; John H. Weinand, Jr., Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe, South Carolina.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.

Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott*, Mexico.
Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D., Washington.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

62nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Massachusetts, August 19 to 21, 1980

Commander: Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: G.Y. Falls, New Mexico; Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin; Bob Legan, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson, North Carolina; Lawrence R. Spaulding, New Hampshire.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley, California.
Historian: Phillip Haddad, Oklahoma.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

63rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, September 1 to 3, 1981

Commander: Michale J. Kogutek, New York.
Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin*, Mississippi; Keigh H. Gwilliam, Utah, Matthew W. Jamieson, Michigan; Robert W. Lowery, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres, Minnesota.
Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona.
Sergeant-at-Arms: R.M. "Sonny" Singleton, Jr., South Carolina.

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois, August 24 to 26, 1982

Commander: Jack W. Flynt, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich, Missouri; Dan C. McDonough, Alaska; Percy C. Miller, Tennessee; Melvin "Doc" Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade, Maryland.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. George R.M. Rumney, Virginia.
Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm, Minnesota.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Herbert W. Odell, Texas.

65th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Washington, August 23 to 25, 1983

Commander: Al Keller, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson, South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C. Plato, Oregon; Lee O. Walker, Oklahoma.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John D. Kempf, Ohio.
Historian: James W. Conway, Massachusetts.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary L. Walling, Illinois.

66th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3 to 4, 1984

Commander: Keith Kreul, Wisconsin.

Vice Commanders: J. Leslie Brown Jr., Kentucky; Robert Gonzalez, Puerto Rico; Charles R. Green*, Ohio; Robert W. Groccia, Massachusetts; John M. Lockhart, Hawaii.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: James Clay McKee, Utah.
Historian: Herberta T. Stark, New Hampshire.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kenneth Gassman, Wisconsin.

67th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26 to 28, 1985

Commander: Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland.
Vice Commanders: Robert S. Turner, Georgia; Harold E. Collett, Idaho; Ronald D. Birk, Kansas; Stewart Kunde, Minnesota; Stephen J. Mikosky, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr., New York.
Historian: Roy B. Mahoney, Florida.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Charles A. St. Clair, Maryland.

68th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio, September 2 to 4, 1986

Commander: Dale L. Renaud, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: Bernard Black, South Carolina; Norman Conn, California; Vito M. DeFlipp, Maine; Miles S. Epling, West Virginia; H.F. Gierke, North Dakota.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Dr. Gordon L. Patterson, Nebraska.
Historian: Ethel M. Matuschka, Wisconsin.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Peter G. Hass, Iowa.

69th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, August 25 to 27, 1987

Commander: James P. Dean, Mississippi.
Vice Commanders: William M. Detweiler, Louisiana; Doris R. Gross, Washington; Donald E. Neil, Delaware; Allen L. Titus, Indiana; Ervin F. Van Dyke, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Arthur J. Jakobiak, New Mexico.
Historian: J. Ruffin Apperson, Virginia.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Hubert V. Culver, Mississippi.

70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky, September 6 to 8, 1988

Commander: John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts.
Vice Commanders: Neale V. Cabral, Connecticut; Joe Frank, Jr., Missouri; W.P. "Bill" Peterson, Montana; Paul F. Phifer, Jr., Virginia; Leon Reed, Arkansas.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerry Salveson, Minnesota.
Historian: Edward F. Brennan, Illinois.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Timothy A. Ryan, Massachusetts.

PROCEEDINGS
# of the
70th Annual National Convention
THE AMERICAN LEGION

Tuesday, September 6, 1988

. . . At 9:00 A.M., September 6, 1988, the 70th Annual National Convention was called to order by National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer.

The 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion will now come to order.

. . . The Colors were advanced by the Cheverly Troopers Post 108, Cheverly, Maryland.

. . . The entire Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Please join me now as Mr. Verne Olson, Past Department Commander of Colorado sings our National Anthem.

. . . The Delegates stood and joined in the singing of the National Anthem led by Mr. Verne Olson, Past Department Commander of Colorado.

The Delegation stood and saluted as the Colors were retired from the podium.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: As we begin our 70th National Convention, it is indeed fitting that we reflect on our Foundation and the men who had the foresight to mold our American Legion into the organization that so proudly serves the veterans, the children and all citizens of our great land.

. . . At this time the Convention Entertainment Spectacular movie presentation was had for the Delegation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The 1987 National Champion Color Guard, the Cheverly Troopers from Cheverly Post No. 108 in Cheverly, Maryland will repost the Colors of The United States of America.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, all Members of The American Legion, join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

. . . Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, following which the Color Guard retired.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now call on Chaplain Rev. Jerry Salveson of North Dakota for the Invocation.

INVOCATION
Rev. Jerry Salveson, North Dakota
National Chaplain

Oh, God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelters from the stars last, and our eternal home, we've given You Thanks over the past years for the heritage You have entrusted to us through the dedication of service of our comrades who have gone before us.

We pause also to ask Your Presence with us this day, and for this Convention, that all that we say and do and think and plan may be to Your honor and glory and for the good of this Nation which you have entrusted to us, Almighty God, we pray, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Rev. Salveson, it goes without saying, your words are of inspiration to all of us in these opening ceremonies, and we are grateful for your contribution.

May I say, I am grateful for your contributions to this Commander throughout the year.

* * *

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

. . . A lighting of the peace candle was had.

* * *

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR DESIGNATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Resolution 288 adopted three years ago calls for designating a "POW/MIA Empty Chair" at all official meetings as a visible symbol of the thousands of Americans still missing in Southeast Asia and Korea. Accordingly, at this time Chairman William Detweiler of the Foreign Relations Commission and Chairman Keith Baker, Chairman of the Special POW/MIA Committee will place the POW/MIA Flag on the Empty Chair—a reminder for all of us to spare no effort in the coming year to secure the release of any American prisoners in Southeast Asia or Korea, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full and complete accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor.

. . . Chairman Keith Baker and William Detweiler draped the Empty Chair with the POW/MIA Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Gentlemen.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Fellow Legionnaires, please join me in reaffirming our commitment to the principles and ideals on which our great American Legion was founded and our dedication to the important work for which we have come together by reciting with me the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

. . . The Delegation stood and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The National Adjutant, Mr. Robert W. Spanogle of Michigan, will now call for the 70th Annual National Convention.

CONVENTION CALL

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT W. SPANOGLE: Read the call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Mr. Adjutant.

I now declare the 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion to be regularly convened.

* * *

. . . The Delegation was then shown a multi-image presentation.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now that our 70th National Convention is officially underway, one of the first items of information we need to attend to is our collection effort for the Child Welfare Foundation. As all of you know we have worked diligently for the past 12 months to raise $1,000,000 for our Foundation to that we can increase our grants and provide even more assistance to America's children. At this time let's have our computer update our total figure, please.

. . . The dollar amount of contributions were then displayed on the AV Screen totaling $990,473.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now I would like to begin by introducing some of the people who are responsible for our being here today in such excellent facilities and beautiful surroundings.

Our first guest is a man who shares a strong belief in service to the community with The American Legion. His active involvement with his community brought him recognition in 1955 as one of the outstanding young men of Kentucky.

He has served as State President of the Kentucky Jaycees and later as National Jaycees President and International Vice President. He has received the highest service awards from both the March of Dimes and the Boy Scouts.

I present to you the Honorable Wendell H. Ford, United States Senator from Kentucky.

THE HONORABLE WENDELL H. FORD
United States Senator
State of Kentucky

Thank you very much, Commander. Distinguished Officers, Visitors from other states, my Comrades, particularly my Comrades here in Kentucky. It's my great pleasure to welcome you here. I have been told that the 70th Annual American Legion Convention will draw an estimated 20,000 people to our State.

I want to compliment you on bringing the President of the United States and the next President of the United States back to Louisville this week. There will be more press here in those two days than there are American Legion members, in my opinion, and, therefore, it helps the economy of Kentucky, and anything that helps the economy of Kentucky makes this a better nation.

The best description that I could find about the Commonwealth of Kentucky was written more than a hundred years ago by our first Commissioner of Agriculture, and his name was Winston J. Davies.

Commissioner Davies looked around Kentucky and he concluded that something in the food or water of the Blue Grass State caused more disgrizzled pigs, short horn cattle and men and women to arrive at what he called the highest professional ability on our globe.

I do not maintain that this claim has been completely verified but I can verify it as it relates to the water. But it does seem to explain the vast number of beautiful women, southern hospitality, mouthwatering country ham and other kinds of Kentucky attributes and products that undoubtedly you have heard about over the years.

I can tell you that Commissioner Davies' kind of theory was used with some success to attract the early settlers of Kentucky.

It was a minister who found that the limestone water made great bourbon. We followed that tradition where Christian County is wet and Bourbon County is dry.

But, regardless of the merits, we do hope that each of you will appreciate and enjoy the unique qualities of our State during this Convention. We want you to know that we are grateful to you for picking Louisville, Kentucky, for this great Convention.

Let me take just a moment to compliment my friends in the American Legion. They have been in the forefront with all the young people with Boys State and Boys Democracy Program, everything you can imagine, as you saw on the screen here a few moments ago. They have been in the forefront of getting a nursing home for the Veterans here in Kentucky. They have worked very, very hard. The Kentucky Legislature this last session approved

$5.4 million for this nursing home, and I was very pleased last week to announce the present share of $8.6 million and in a very few days we will start turning the earth on our $14,000,000 veterans nursing home at Wilmore, Kentucky.

You will find the Kentuckians support The American Legion and support its highest ideals, including a strong envisioned Military establishment that can bring us peace through strength.

We are proud of our vital Military bases of Fort Knox and Fort Campbell and of the 370,000 Military veterans in our State.

We will never stop honoring the more than 13,000 Kentuckians that have given their lives in foreign wars in defense of freedom. We have been partners, as you are, to see that these and other brave Americans have not died in vain, and to build a better and more honorable world in which no more of our children or our grandchildren will have to follow in their footsteps.

In closing something struck me a few minutes ago watching this program that I wish every American had an opportunity to see, and I heard the word faith, faith in this country, faith in our human beings, faith in our neighbors, but I also know that this organization is the symbol, as I read my Bible, that faith without works is dead, and the American Legion works to keep the American faith and the world at peace, and I am proud to be here this morning to welcome you to the Commonwealth. Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The next speaker we have is the Junior Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee as well as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senator McConnell was the founder and Chairman of the Kentucky Task Force on Exploited and Missing Children, has served as Co-Chairman of the National Child Tragedies Coalition and is a member of the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Justice.

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to a man who shares many of the ideals of the members of The American Legion, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

THE HONORABLE MITCH McCONNELL
United States Senator
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Thank you very much, Commander, and welcome, not only to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but to my hometown of Louisville of which we are all quite proud, and you will hear, as Senator Ford indicated, a good number of patriotic observations, not only about this City but about the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I want to take a little different tack and commend The American Legion for its support over the years not only of things that are important to those who have served our country in time of war but also the policies of the National Government.

Now, you know, as you look around at what the various units of Government are in charge of there is in most areas a shared responsibility. You can find in certain areas, for example, environmental protection, a shared responsibility among the Federal, the State and the local governmental units. But, if you look at the Federal Government and say, what is the unique role of that level of government? It is clearly the national defense and foreign policy of this country, and it is in that area that it seems to me that your service and your activities has been most conspicuously successful because this organization has known, like no others, that the way you maintain peace in the world is to be strong.

Our policies over the last 40 years, some of which called upon sacrifice for many of our people and some of you in this room, have nevertheless brought us a period of unprecedented peace. So, where are we in the late '80s?

I think it is safe to say that we are winning the Cold War. We always thought of that as a defensive action holding the Communists back here, stopping the Russians there. We always thought we were on the defense, but now it seems to me, as a result of clearly strong and unambiguous foreign policy and defense posture in the world, it is safe to say we are winning the Cold War.

The Russians are leaving Afghanistan, the Cubans, their surrogates are leaving Angola, and if you look around the world at who is practicing the principles that we preached in the post World War II period, more and more countries are advocating what we have been recommending, which is democracy and capitalism.

If you look at this hemisphere, for example, there are only two or three countries left that don't have some form of democracy or capitalism. We know all too well from the competition that comes in the area of commerce and trade that are allowing the Pacific rim, the countries that are practicing capitalism and democracy are getting pretty darned competitive. We know that it works.

Look at our adversaries, the Peoples Republic of China, which in some ways have become rather friendly to us, they are running head on in the direction of capitalism. Then there is the biggest adversary, the Soviet Union. Gorbachev has two favorite words, one is glasnost. He says it means openness, an opportunity to criticize and express yourself. The other word he uses is parastroka which he says means restructuring. I say it means a little bit of capitalism.

Right there in the heartland of the Etoni the admission is that the system doesn't work. Will they succeed? I don't know. Should we keep our guard up? You betcha. But I will say this in looking around the world in the late '80s and looking into the decade of the '90s the kinds of policies that this organization has advocated year in and year out are working, and I don't know about you but I am proud of the fact we are winning the Cold War, aren't you?

If we continue to maintain a strong national defense and an assertive foreign policy we will continue to win the Cold War in the decades ahead.

So, I am here not only to welcome you to Louisville and to Kentucky but to thank you for all you have done for our country, not just because you served, not just because you sacrificed but because you have continued to support the kind of defense and foreign policy that will make this country prevail throughout the world.

Have a great Convention. Look forward to seeing you soon.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now, I would like to introduce to you representing the Honorable Wallace Wilkinson, the Governor of Kentucky, General Davidson.

The Adjutant General oversees the operation of Kentucky's Department of Military Affairs, which includes the Kentucky Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, the Division of Disaster and Emergency Services, the State's Air Transport Division and several other related State agencies. He is the Commander of more than 8,000 troops.

He is a Vietnam veteran, having served with the Airborne Ranger Infantry Company of The First Air Cavalry Division.

Active in his community, our guest on the Board of Leadership Louisville Foundation, Inc., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the Louisville Chamber of Commerce Small Business Institute.

Please give another big American Legion welcome to Brigadier General Michael Davidson.

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL DAVIDSON
Representing the
Honorable Wallace Wilkinson, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

Commander Comer, Past Commanders, Distinguished Visitors and Guests and my fellow veterans.

There is no organization in the country that can claim the sacrifices and the service that The American Legion has made over the years. There is, in my opinion, no other organization that can claim to represent the things that have made America so great for so many years.

You do us in Kentucky great honor by coming here, and on behalf of the Governor and all of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky I thank you for that honor.

You will know, I am sure, that Kentucky is well known for at least two outstanding products, thoroughbred race horses and fine bourbon whiskey.

Commander, would you join me, please. The people at the hotel have asked that I not give Jake a horse.

But I have asked one of our finest distilleries to personally prepare this bottle of fine bourbon whiskey for the Commander, which on behalf of the Governor I now give you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, General. A little birdie must have spoken to the Governor about my love of bourbon, and I'm kind of glad for that horse, I say "hoss", but I was in Wyoming at their State Convention a while back and they weren't so kind. I had to ride one of them all through the Convention parade, but I'm kind of glad, this make of whiskey might well do the trick. Thank you very much, General, and express my gratitude to His Honor the Governor.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The next guest who is here to welcome us is a man who has contributed extensively to the development and creation of jobs in Jefferson County. He is the former Mayor of the City of Louisville and today serves as the Chief Elected Official of the County.

Please welcome Judge Harvey Sloane to our Convention.

THE HONORABLE HARVEY I. SLOANE
County Judge/Executive
Jefferson County, Kentucky

Commander Comer, Delegates, Honored Guests, it is indeed a great pleasure to welcome you to Louisville and Jefferson County. We are extremely excited about having you here in this community.

Now, Senator Ford and Brigadier General Davidson have taken credit for the bourbon of this great Commonwealth, I will take credit for the weather. It is going to be good all week and going to be cool and you will be able to get out and enjoy the sights and sounds of our community.

You are in Jefferson County, a county that was named after Thomas Jefferson. I want to quote just a line from Thomas Jefferson, because he knew the value of military and he knew the value of having an awareness at all times, and he wrote Andrew Jackson in 1806, "Whenever hostile aggressions require resort to war we must meet our duty and convince the world that we are just friends and brave enemies."

That was two centuries ago almost, and today let's look around in this community at an event, and it has to do with the Marine Lieutenant Colonel Rich Higgins. He was born in a little community some miles from here, Danville. He grew up in Jefferson County, and now it is 203 days that he has been taken hostage by the Lebanese terrorists, and I am sure that is not all. He has performed his duty and he did perform it.

You are performing your duty that Thomas Jefferson spoke about, and that duty is to honor our country, have the courage and faith to bless it always and to keep it safe for ourselves and our children.

I don't think the challenge today is to find people that are going to meet that challenge. The challenge is to honor the people who have met it, and you have met it.

I was a volunteer physician in Vietnam in 1966 treating Vietnam civilians, and I saw the precious men and women over there fighting for this country's beliefs. We need to honor them, as The American Legion has taken the leadership in doing.

Kentucky, as you have heard our Senior Senator say, Senator Ford, is going to establish a Kentucky Veterans nursing home, and in July 1991 when that home is opened, all Kentuckians and all Americans are going to be proud because that is a symbol of what we feel toward you who have done so much for us.

The cause of veterans does not stop there, it goes to the national level, it goes to a need for cabinet status for Veteran Affairs, and we hope that is going to come about in the near future.

It is indeed a great honor to welcome you here. I think the men and women who helped this Convention become so successful, to put on a program that we saw this morning, which was so marvelous, didn't you think?

It's a tribute to you, it's a tribute to our country. We are absolutely thrilled that you are here. We hope you enjoy every moment in Louisville and Jefferson County, and if you have got any problems and if you get into any trouble, please see the Mayor; if you are having an enjoyable time, please see me. God bless you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next guest has been very important to the growth and prosperity of this community. A graduate of Indiana University with a law degree from Georgetown University, he served as general counsel to the Governor of Kentucky from 1979 to 1981.

In 1986 the people of Louisville recognized him as an outstanding individual and elected him as Mayor of the City of Louisville. Since becoming Mayor his leadership roles in winning for Louisville the National Headquarters of the Presbyterian Church and landing a $6,000,000 floating restaurant and night club for Louisville's downtown Riverfront Revitalization Project have gained him recognition as one of the top 20 Mayors in America by U.S. News and World Report.

Please join me in a warm American Legion welcome to the Mayor of Louisville, Jerry Abramson.

THE HONORABLE JERRY E. ABRAMSON
Mayor, City of Louisville, Kentucky

Thank you very much and good morning. It's really exciting to see all of you folks with us, but over the weekend I had the opportunity, the privilege and the honor to be the Honorary Grand Marshal of your parade. I got to tell you it was one of the most exciting experiences next to the Derby Parade that I have ever had. Now, you've got to say that when you are Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, because you have got to do the Derby Parade every year.

The problem that happened this morning is we are trying to get the M1 track marks off Broadway. They seem to have a little trouble with the asphalt coming down the major thoroughfare of our community. But, we will get it worked out.

It was certainly a very exciting day, beautiful weather, a lot of folks having a great time and remembering what The American Legion is certainly all about.

You know, the great story I always tell about my opportunity with the service is that in the late 1950s, maybe some of you remember how the in-thing to do if you were a ninth grader or an eighth grader was to wear your father's Army jacket to school. Everybody had these great old Army jackets that obviously didn't fit that their fathers had worn. Not mine, mine fit, I wore my mother's.

My mother was a WAC, my father was a veteran, and we as a family have truly been a part as best we can of this great American dream.

I want to welcome you all to this community. We hope you have a wonderful time, you ride our trolleys, you stroll along the waterfront and go to some of the restaurants, taking the cruise ship, maybe going down to the IMAX theater which is two or three blocks from here, having an opportunity to partake in what is happening in Louisville, Kentucky.

We hope you have a great time. I am going over now to welcome the Auxiliary. I hope they spend a lot of money, and when it is all said and done we hope you will remember our community.

Let me just say this, on behalf of the citizens of Louisville and those 6,000 Members of The American Legion in District 5 we salute you all. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. I see how proud you are to wear that Post 201 cap on your head, and we are very proud of you. I can assure you that I will remember Louisville for at least about six months. It takes that long for my credit cards to arrive.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It takes months of work and coordination to finally see a National Convention get underway. Today, as we gather for the first time in nearly 60 years in this Ohio River City, we know that it took a great team of volunteer Legionnaires to help make this Convention a success.

One individual who provided necessary leadership during the past year for all final arrangements for this Convention is with us this morning.

He is a Vietnam veteran who served four years in the United States Air Force, so he can't be all bad, before joining the Legion in 1974. He was initiated during his father's year as Post Commander with Dixie Post 220 in Shively, Kentucky. He went on to serve the Department of Kentucky as Membership Chairman and Senior Vice Commander before being elected the youngest Department Commander of Kentucky in 1987.

Please give a warm welcome to the Commander of The American Legion Department of Kentucky, Michael Leon, an outstanding Commander of Comer's Clan, Michael Leon.

MICHAEL D. LEON
1987-1988
Department Commander
The American Legion of Kentucky

Good morning. Commander Comer, Adjutant Robert Spanogle, National Officers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, my Fellow Legionnaires and Members of Comer's Clan, one and all, it is indeed an honor on behalf of the 29,000 Members of The American Legion in the Department of Kentucky to bring you greetings to this the 70th Convention of The American Legion. Whether you call us Louis-ville or Louie-ville, or, as the natives of this City call it, Louavill, we hope that after this week that the definition of our fair City will be warmth and friendship.

To Commander "Jake" it has been a pleasure serving you this year for God, Country and Family. To those Legionnaires that have traveled from afar we hope that you will remember this Commonwealth motto as you work the policies and priorities of this year, and that motto being, "United we stand, divided we fall."

Welcome to the State of Kentucky. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Mike, and I know I can say that you have given us one of the finest Conventions certainly in memory and we deeply appreciate the hard work that has gone into this year's event.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: With us next is a man who has played a significant role in the planning of this Convention. He has worked continuously to see that everything is working properly while we are here.

A member of The American Legion for 33 years, he has chaired many Committees at the Post, District and Department levels, including his present position on the Magazine Commission. He also served as Commander for the Department of Kentucky at the same time I served as Department Commander of Massachusetts, so we have a long time friendship and I am proud of his service to our great organization.

Please extend a warm welcome to the President of The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Kentucky who takes all of the heat when problems go wrong and he certainly deserves our gratitude when things are going right, and they are, J. Leslie Brown.

J. LESLIE BROWN, JR.
President, The American Legion
National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, Inc.

Thank you, Commander "Jake," Madam President, Distinguished Platform Guests, my Fellow Delegates to the 70th Convention, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is a dream that has come true after many, many years of hard work.

On behalf of the Convention Corporation of Kentucky, all the members of The American Legion and The American Legion of Kentucky and the Sons of The American Legion, we warmly greet you to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the great City of Louisville, the Gateway to the South.

If it wasn't for all the men in Kentucky and the ladies, no one man could stand before you today and say this is a successful Convention. We have had tremendous help from our Corporation, from the members of The American Legion of Kentucky, from the businesses, and everyone in the City of Louisville has helped. Our Police department has been most cooperative.

It is a privilege and one that you will never forget, and I have had the opportunity of having many privileges in the 30-some-odd years of The American Legion, and today is the highlight of it because I have the honor of pinning our National Commander with our Convention pin. Commander Comer.

. . . J. Leslie Brown, Jr. pinned the Convention pin on the National Commander.

Commander "Jake," I hope these three days will culminate a wonderful year of service by you and your staff, and we are deeply proud to have you here in Louisville. Congratulations and the best of luck.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Les, and to all of your Committee and to the National Staff, Bybroski and his Committee who has put this all together. The warm welcome and southern hospitality we've already experienced here in the Blue Grass State are the direct result of your tireless efforts to bring The American Legion here for its 70th Annual National Convention.

We came prepared to get on with the business of The American Legion, and the atmosphere you have provided will inspire us in our efforts to chart the course for another successful Legion year.

A bit of trivia is kind of interesting. Last year we were installed in San Antonio, Texas, and here we are now a year later in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1928 we were in San Antonio, Texas, and in 1929 back in Louisville, Kentucky. So, it is kind of ironic, but a little bit of trivia.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: During the past year it has been a pleasure for me to work side by side with a woman who has totally devoted herself to furthering the goals of her own organization as well as ours.

A 42-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary, she has been honored by her unit with a life membership. She has held numerous unit offices and offices on the County and District levels including the Presidency of each. She has held four State Department Chairmanships and served as Wisonsin's Department President.

As the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, she has further sealed the bonds we have with the Auxiliary making unity a way of life for The American Legion and our Auxiliary. Please stand and welcome a lady whose friendship I treasure. From the Department of Wisconsin your National President, Pearl Behrend.

MRS. H.B. (PEARL) BEHREND
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you so very much. Mr. Commander, National Officers, Platform Guests and my

Beloved Department of Wisconsin, all of you fabulous Legionnaires and Ladies, I am delighted to be here.

This is a goal that both your National Commander and I have worked for, and, believe me, I must tell you right off the bat I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the Commander that you did.

He has been absolutely tremendous, and together I can truthfully tell you that we are united, our purposes have been fulfilled, and we have made it happen this year.

I'm sure you are well aware that The American Legion Auxiliary is also 100% in membership.

The majority of the goals that we set for ourselves has been met and this we are happy to report to you today because we are your American Legion Auxiliary.

Again I would like to say to each of you Legionnaires, each of you veterans who have served, I am indeed dedicated to each and every one of you because it's through your efforts and your service that you gave to Uncle Sam that I have the privilege of appearing here this morning, and I thank you for that privilege and I thank you for serving your country when Uncle Sam called.

I know that time is of the essence, and, Mr. Commander, may I present the people that came with me this morning? Would my husband, Bing Behrend, please come forward.

The man who stuck with me all this year, and, if I may, Mr. Commander, I am going to tell you a little story. I was being interviewed at some spot and the interview was over, I thought, but as we were going out the door with the reporter she said to me, "How does your family feel about your not being home?"

I said, "If my family did not support me in doing this I could not do it, but I'll tell you I have come to feel that I am having an illicit love affair, I meet my husband in the airports, I leave my husband in airports," and when it came out in the paper it said I was on a constant honeymoon, which I did not think that was part of the interview but it was. But, Honey, in front of all your Legionnaires, I thank you for being my support this past year. Thank you so very much.

A very delightful, a very special lady, one who has been very close to me this year, our National Secretary, Mrs. Miriam Junge.

MRS. MIRIAM JUNGE
National Secretary
The American Legion Auxiliary

A very special good morning to you, Commander Comer, and to you the Delegates to The American Legion National Convention. I know that you have many things on your program today so just let me say thank you for the privilege of greeting you for the first time in my 10 years of service as the National Secretary. God bless all of you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: One of the projects that Pearl has supported The American Legion on this year is our $1,000,000 Child Welfare Foundation Fund-Raiser. So since she is up here with us now perhaps this is a good time to update our figures. Can we have an update, please. $997,965. It certainly won't be very much longer before we reach that $1,000,000 mark. The checks are still being recorded, they are still being sent into the office in the back and over here at the Convention Center, so, the children of America will be the winners in this project.

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PRESENTATION—THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AND NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S UNITY AWARD WINNERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Many awards will be presented during this Convention. It is only fitting we start with awards honoring the unity between The American Legion Posts and their affiliated Auxiliary Units. On behalf of our membership goals and for the betterment of the children and youth in their communities, National President Pearl and I have chosen some select posts for the Unity Award.

The Unity Award was designed to illustrate just how effective American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units are in creating and implementing children and youth projects in communities across America. These projects are so very important, because the future of America lies with our youth.

The first requirement to qualify in each of five membership categories was for both the Post and Unit to have reached at least 100% of its 1987 membership goal by April 1 of this year.

And the Post and Unit, jointly, must have implemented a program on behalf of their community's youngsters.

Winners from the Departments in each of the five membership categories were then submitted to National Headquarters and reviewed by a Screening Committee consisting of American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members.

National President Pearl and I then choose the winners from among the finalists.

At this time, I'd like to ask her to join me at the side of the podium for the presentation and I'd like to ask National Vice Commander Paul Phifer to announce the winners.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PAUL PHIFER: Thank you, Commander. The winners of the Unity Award Program will receive a plaque recognizing their accomplishment. They will also receive a check for $1,000 which will be donated to the project of their choice in their communities. The winners are being recognized in order of small Post and Unit size to large.

In Category I:—Winning Department and Unit are: ADA County Post and Unit 100, Boise, Idaho, for conducting an Essay and Poster Contest in local school system on the Bill of Rights to the Constitution. Accepting are Commander Thomas Moore and President Charlotte Moore.

In Category II:—Winning Department and Unit are: Marion Fitzsimmons Post and United 160—Hill City, South Dakota, for presenting flags for each classroom in their school during an "Honor America" assembly. Accepting is Russel Testerman, Immediate Past Department Commander.

In Category III:—Winning Department Unit are: Wendell Willkie Post and Unit 19—Akron, Ohio, for entering a community Christmas festival. They had to decorate a Christmas tree with decorations made from natural elements such as nuts, berries and the like. The tree was then auctioned to local business organizations with the proceeds going to the local Children's Hospital. By the way, their tree sold for $375.

Accepting are Ralph Turner, Jr., First Vice Commander and Vice President, Mrs. Ralph Turner, Jr.

In Category IV:—Winning Department and Unit are: Dana-Howard-Weekly Post and Unit 130—Labelle, Florida, for raising funds to conduct County Special Olympics games. Commander Dennis R. Boland and President Peggy Lou Boland accepting.

Finally in Category V:—East Chicago Allied Post and Unit 369, East Chicago, Indiana, for raising $6,000 for their County Association for the Mental Disabled. Accepting are Richard Novak, Past Commander and Nena Turnquist, Past President.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Commander.

When we last checked our total dollar figure, we were very close to our goal.

I would like to update our figures once again. Boy, have they been scurrying backstage here. With all our youth champions here, our National President and others, please cross your fingers and hold your breath, because here comes the newest figures.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: We did it. Thank you.

. . . The AV Screen indicated a total of $1,002,358.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: That is all it took. We have got to have a celebration. Do you think you deserve it? You have got to believe it, you all do.

. . . At this time the Waltham Band entertained the Delegation while balloons came dropping from the ceiling.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I'm not finished thanking these individuals you see on the stage. They represent the top contributors in different categories for our fundraising effort.

But without the hard work and dedication of each Legionnaire, the members of The

American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and the Eight and Forty, this would not have been possible.

So while I continue to meet these people, I would like to have National Vice Commander Neal Cabral assume the podium and present to you each Department and their total dollar contributions received at National Headquarters by August 27th.

. . . National Vice Commander Neal Cabral, Connecticut, assumed the Chair.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NEAL CABRAL: Alabama, $8,199.81.

Alaska	$7,316.50	Montana	$3,757.51
Arizona	$7,851.36	Nebraska	$13,340.35
Arkansas	$4,934.58	Nevada	$435.00
California	$29,673.93	New Hampshire	$16,904.96
Canada	$800.64	New Jersey	$29,499.00
Colorado	$8,439.00	New Mexico	$2,910.18
Connecticut	$9,311.80	New York	$51,452.00
Delaware	$3,088.90	North Carolina	$9,699.47
District of Columbia	$1,539.00	North Dakota	$7,330.00
Florida	$34,207.18	Ohio	$28,097.56
France	$3,223.00	Oklahoma	$1,023.74
Georgia	$7,862.00	Oregon	$15,782.97
Hawaii	$1,975.00	Panama Canal	$160.00
Idaho	$3,942.34	Pennsylvania	$22,022.19
Illinois	$44,487.09	Philippines	$1,190.00
Indiana	$26,708.87	Puerto Rico	$1,899.67
Iowa	$4,693.78	Rhode Island	$4,720.75
Kansas	$16,963.25	South Carolina	$6,837.00
Kentucky	$6,192.00	South Dakota	$2,796.23
Louisiana	$8,042.04	Tennessee	$12,357.00
Maine	$4,234.00	Texas	$26,368.75
Maryland	$13,919.00	Utah	$2,425.96
Massachusetts	$100,342.55	Vermont	$7,500.05
Mexico	$542.50	Virginia	$15,336.15
Michigan	$12,792.40	Washington	$7,475.71
Minnesota	$47,631.25	West Virginia	$3,291.25
Mississippi	$4,080.00	Wisconsin	$10,910.88
Missouri	$36,292.45	Wyoming	$6,620.76

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Neal.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is stronger today because of the efforts of countless people. I appreciate the effort that it took to see this goal surpassed.

Each year we give an award named for the man who was instrumental in the establishment of the Child Welfare Foundation. The award is normally presented at the fall meetings in Indianapolis, but this year I wanted the award to be part of this celebration.

For the purpose of presenting the Garland Murphy Award I call on the President of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Udie Grant, to come forward.

PRESENTATION

PRESIDENT UDIE GRANT, THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION: Thank you, Commander "Jake". It is a privilege for me to present the Garland Murphy Award to the top supporting Department in support of the Child Welfare Foundation, and that Department is Massachusetts.

Here to receive that award on behalf of Massachusetts is Ernie Montrond of Massachusetts, and Ernie, I would like to read to the people out here and to the Department of Massachusetts what this says:

"To the Department of Massachusetts for the Program Year 1987-88 in recognition of their designation as a number one Department in total contributions received from the volunteers in support of our annual program designed to meet the physical and mental and emotional and spiritual needs of our nation's children through the productive and meaningful grants."

This is signed by myself, and Paul Frinsthal, Executive Secretary. Ernie, congratulations.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ERNIE MONTROND, Massachusetts: Thank you so very much, everyone, for the wonderful people in Massachusetts and this outstanding award that goes to our Department.

As I said, you people made my day, and you are the greatest RATS in the nation, thank you.

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Udie, I also want you to help me with this next very special award.

At this time, I would like to ask those who are going to represent Mrs. Garland Murphy if they would come forward, National Vice Commander Leon Reed and NECman Larry Fisher, I know how proud you are of Arkansas.

I am proud to present to Leon and to Larry and ask that they present this to Mrs. Murphy back home, this plaque of recognition.

It reads:

"In 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., was created and permanently established through the love, concern and dedication of your late husband, Dr. Garland D. Murphy, Jr.

"In the past 34 years, we have raised millions of dollars for millions of children. On this special occasion we the following attest on this 6th day of September, 1988, and do honor and cherish his memory."

This is signed by Pearl Behrend, The National President of the Auxiliary; Richard League, the National Commander of the SAL who is here on the stage with me; and Kitty Patterson, the National Chapeau of the Eight and Forty who is also here in attendance.

And also, may I remind you of what I think of this wonderful note, of all the Chapeaus in the United States, and the nation, this was the only organization where every single state had 100% of the Eight and Forty. Kitty, thank you very much for your service.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now Leon, if you would express on behalf of your people in Arkansas whatever you like.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER REED, Arkansas: Commander Comer, I take the privilege of asking that that award be accepted by Lawrence E. Fisher of Arkansas.

I believe he has a presentation to make, which we had planned several weeks ago, but Dr. Garland Murphy and Lawrence Fisher were long-time personal friends, as were Lawrence Fisher and his wife were long-time friends of Garland Murphy and his widow, and that is why I ask that Lawrence Fisher have the honor of accepting this award.

NECMAN LAWRENCE FISHER, Arkansas: Thank you, Leon, I appreciate that.

I would like for the entire Arkansas Delegation over on the right to stand and help me receive this plaque and this honor of Dr. Garland G. Murphy and his wife. So will you stand, please.

NECMAN FISHER: I accept this on behalf of our 30,000 members of The American Legion from Arkansas.

I want to also, in accepting this plaque, want to present Udie with a check for $3,000, in addition to the amount that was announced a few minutes ago. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much for that $3,000. There are many Departments where they listed 100% participation by a certain date, and then here at this Convention there were many Departments that came in with extra monies, and they will be announced as we go along.

Now I know we received another $1,000 from a Post in Ohio and it goes on and on; almost $14,000 from the Department of Pennsylvania on top of what was already listed in the amounts that they gave.

And there is $3,000 more from New Jersey and another $4,000 here.

We will let you know the final update by Thursday.

And now, it's time to actually deliver the bucks to make good on all of these donations. Udie, this oversized check is for $1,000,000.

You already know that we have gone above that goal. When we are through counting, you will have even more funds to increase grants in the future.

. . . At this time President Comer presented a tremendously oversized check to President Udie Grant for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now you know what we have been asking you to do all year. A tough, tough, tough assignment. But boy, you all did come through.

Udie, thank you very much for your contributions and presence over the years to this Foundation and for being here today to help me with this wonderful, wonderful presentation.

THANK YOU REMARKS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: At this moment, my heart is filled with pride and love for my Legion family and friends. What you have done in this year for me is what we veterans know as above and beyond the call of duty. I thank you very much.

This past year, you and your friends have proven to the world that we care, that we can accomplish a mission once we set our minds to it.

Earlier this morning, I said the real winners in this effort are the children of this nation. The grants of the Child Welfare Foundation are far-reaching. They make a difference for children who desperately need assistance, because you care, because you worked, because you wanted this success as much or more than I did.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will do more in the years ahead. This money will permit the Foundation to make more grants, aid more children, and I believe the Child Welfare Foundation is a perfect example of what our founders wanted this great organization to be.

Times have changed, technology has changed, but our dedication to the welfare of our nation's children has not changed.

It is impossible for me to thank each person by name. There are those who gave one dollar, there are others who have given thousands of dollars. The true measure of it all is the collective total. One million plus dollars.

When it is all counted, I believe we can tack another $100,000 on that figure. You have scaled a mountain this year. Today we are the top, over the top, if you will.

This success is noteworthy, and it is a success that is attributable to a tremendous team effort.

From the start last fall, you were auctioning off stuffed toys to raise money. Others were conducting bake sales, others used even more innovative means to gather the money.

Now we have achieved our goal. How we got there was fun and a real challenge, but being where we are today is the true measure of success.

It has been m y objective to seed the Child Welfare Foundation for more greatness in the future. Each and every member of the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of American Legion, and the Eight and Forty helped achieve that objective .

I thank you for your help, hard work, dedication and drive. I acknowledge your greatness in this effort, and I know that you share with me a sense of pride in what has been accomplished.

Checks are still coming in to the Foundation, and there is time for you to make a donation if you want to do so. I hope to announce a total figure before I gavel this Convention to a close on Thursday.

As each of us ages, we must think about our children, the children of the world. For years this great American Legion of ours has toiled in the fields to make a better life for the children of this land. We have done great things. We have helped the men and women who lead this great country today. Through our efforts today we are helping those who will shape the world of the future. A foundation is critical to a building, and the money that you have given to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation helps it be what we said it should be, a Foundation with a future.

Like a building's foundation, we want the leaders of tomorrow to appreciate the ideals on which this beloved country of ours was founded. We want a world of freedom. We want a world at peace. We want a world of hope and opportunity. Is that too much to ask? I don't think so, and you have proven that you don't think so either.

On behalf of the children of America, I say thank you for giving them the hope of a brighter tomorrow, a world to enjoy.

If the children could be here to sing of their wants, I believe they would have a song much like this to sing.

. . . At this time an AV presentation was had for the Delegation of a child singing.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: As you can see, as we have said all along, the children of this nation certainly do not make and those that we have helped do not make 100% of all the people living in this great land, but they certainly make up 100% of our future.

And now, I would like to call upon the President of the Child Welfare Foundation, Udie Grant.

UDIE GRANT, PRESIDENT NATIONAL WELFARE FOUNDATION: Thank you, Commander Comer. You know, a while ago, we saw all of those balloons that were being exploded which sounded like the Fourth of July or maybe New Year's. Well, certainly with that million bucks, it is going to be a Happy New Year.

And I want to thank all of you for that endeavor.

We are going to make the children of this nation even better through your efforts, and we want to thank you again.

Commander, if I may, I would like to have the privilege of thanking a few people that I think have done an outstanding job in the efforts toward the million bucks, and that is the people of The American Legion.

I think they have done an outstanding job, and I would like to thank them publicly, and the staff of the National Organization have been most cooperative, and have done a yeoman job, and again, I would thank all of you.

There is a special group of people out there called RATS, and all of you RATS, I don't know what we would do without you, and I wish all of you would stand. Let them know where you are.

Where are you? Stand up.

Thank you all so much.

Commander, a year ago in San Antonio, you issued a challenge. You didn't only issue the challenge, you led; you led by example. You led with your enthusiasm, your integrity, wherever you traveled, whether it be in Central America or in the halls of Congress, or when you called on the President of these United States. And in your visits to all of the various Departments, you carried the message of the Child Welfare Foundation.

And also, and I say always on his lapel was the pin of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, as it is today. And Commander, I would like to present to you on behalf of the Child Welfare Foundation and its Director in support of all the children in this nation and in support of the Directors and Officers of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. This presented to John "Jake" Comer, National Commander of The American Legion 1987-88 who has distinguished himself as our all-time number one advocate, friend and supporter.

This is signed by myself as President, and all the Members and the Directors of the Child Welfare Foundation.

Commander, out thanks. So many thanks, and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Udie. Thank you.

And thank the Foundation. And I accept this on behalf of Pearl Behrend, Kitty Patterson, Dick League and Paul Frinsthal, and his secretary Debbie, who took an awful lot of static back and forth from me, as I would run in with checks and make up the amounts to write and get those in the magazine. And those are still coming in, and certainly last but not least, each and every Member of all your collective organizations.

As I look in the future to my mementos, this is going to represent my complete year, my love and affection for each and every one of you. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMER CLAN

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I know at this time it is a little bit out of order from the program, but I would like to introduce my family. As many of you know, I have a young family, young grandchildren, they are getting a little itchy up here, spending a few hours on this stage. And that way, if they have to go off, they can do what must be done.

I would like to first introduce in the back row if they would just stand, my family, starting:

. . . At this time National Commander Comer introduced his family who were in attendance on the stage.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: My youngest son John Comer, who was here, and others, but I think you will agree as a family, this is one family that has traveled throughout this nation to be with me. I think that is what we are all about.

Come up here, Mom. This here is the lady that so many of you have met, the one that started it all from County Galway, Ireland, where the clan really started, and that is where the clan begins. My mother.

My oldest daughter, this is Peggy with her husband Jim Hughes, and the grandson that was here last year, Sean Patrick Hughes, Member of the Sons of The American Legion, right, Sean?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This next young man, who just graduated from college in Rhode Island here a couple of months ago who so many in Massachusetts know from the time he was five and six years of age. Going afterwards, he grew up working in the hospitality room and carrying the luggage for the auxiliary and every Convention, and so when he graduated from college just a couple of months ago, wouldn't you believe, he is now going into hotel management. He has been on a couple of trips with us to West Virginia and Montana, and he just came back traveling on a European trip, and so we are very proud of him. John Joseph Comer, our son.

And to all of you, wherever you have seen the expertise of this next lady, who has traveled throughout the world, not only through Europe, but in just about every one of our 50 states in the last three years that we have campaigned together. Boy, she is the greatest, and we are going to be happy to go home and know that we have completed the job. We have completed it as a family. We have completed it together, and we can enjoy all of your accolades and all of your gifts, and I won't have to explain too much, because she was there with me, my wife, Eileen.

YOUTH CHAMPION AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: These next young Americans have taken full advantage of the opportunities provided by The American Legion. They represent the finest of this nation's youth. They are the next generation of leaders, they are the future of America.

Since our National Convention 69 years ago the Boy Scouts of America have served as partners for God and Country, and as we have expanded our membership, so does our ability to sponsor more Scout troops.

Our special relationship with these Scouts will continue to grow larger in the future.

Today, we have with us a young man who has packed plenty of activity into his first 18 years of life. Activities of an Eagle Scout, the National Honor Society, the German Club, the 4-H Club and countless volunteer hours fill the schedule for our 1988 Boy Scout of the Year.

Now a Freshman at the University of Central Florida in Orlando where he is majoring in electrical engineering with a special eye on robotics, our Scout of the Year plans on becoming an officer in the United States Air Force following college. Sponsored by Herbert D. Gibb Post 259 in Debary, Florida, our Scout of the Year, from DeLand, Florida, Mr. Troy Eckhardt.

TROY E. ECKHARDT
1988 American Legion Scout of the Year

Good morning. My name is Troy Eckhardt. I am a resident of DeLand, Florida. I wish to thank a wonderful group of people at this time for my experience as a Boy Scout of the Year 1988.

First of all, my family for their undying support. Without them none of this would have been possible. Secondly, I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hardy for their guidance and planning these past few days. I would like to thank Mike Ayers and Ron Engle for their work on the Committee that made all of this possible for me. Lastly, I would like to thank you, the Officers and Members of The American Legion. We are all grateful for your continuous support and your many youth programs. I hope our presence here has reminded you that all of your work has been successful and very much appreciated. I hope we have demonstrated that American's future is in good hands because there is many more of us where we came from.

Americanism and patriotism are still very much alive in our generation. Many of our peers join us in the quest to foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism.

Once again thank you very, very much, I am forever indebted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: For more than 50 years The American Legion has provided an excellent educational opportunity for high school students with the ability to speak on their feet.

The National High School Oratorical Contest provides valuable public speaking experience, the opportunity to research and learn more about the U.S. Constitution, and significant scholarship money for a college education.

Our 1988 winner is a well-rounded individual who in his first three years of high school has been involved with the speech and debate team, and includes writing for the school newspaper, and running cross-country are among his many activities.

Now a Senior at Calvert Hall College High School in Towson, Maryland, our oratorical contest winner is planning a career in law.

Sponsored by American Legion Parkville Post 183 in Parkville, Maryland, Mr. Dilip Paliath.

DILIP PALIATH
1988 First Place Winner
National Oratorical Contest

I don't have much time to thank everybody that was involved because Mike Ayers and Bob Turner are sitting in the back with a stop watch in their pocket waiting to drag us off as soon as possible. But I would like to thank our Parkville Post for sponsoring me, my State, all the people involved with the oratorical contest and the National Commander and everybody involved with that.

The American Legion really has a good program going. The only problem is more people don't know about it. That is the sad part about it. Maybe that will change in the future, and I hope it does.

In typical fashion everyone expects the orators to have a quote. Well, this is a quote that I came up with this morning. It goes something like this:

"When we hear, then we shall forget; when we see, we shall remember. And when we do, like we have all done, then you will understand," and we really do understand.

Thanks a lot.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next youth champion has risen to the top office in another of our youth programs by being elected.

He is a young man who has already impressed not only the men and women of The American Legion but the young men of his peer group as well.

We Legionnaires believe that a good education in the role of government is essential to the future leaders of this great nation of ours. The young man with us today has demonstrated his ability to get elected at both the State and National level. He most certainly has learned of democracy through both our Boys State and Boys Nations Programs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me special pleasure to present to you the President of Boys Nation and a fellow Massachusetts resident from South Hamilton who will one day undoubtedly find himself in a leadership role. Sponsored by Post 194 in South Hamilton, please welcome David Nason.

DAVID C. NASON
1988 Boys Nation President

Thank you. First I would like to introduce you to my father, Malcolm Nason.

Incidentally, this is the first long-distance trip he has taken with me and I am deeply honored by his presence. Thank you, Dad.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain in depth the meaning of each and every one of these pins. Is Lee Hardy still sitting out there?

Thank you, Post 194 in Hamilton, Mass., especially Warren Lampson and his wife if they are in the audience. Thank you, Massachusetts for supporting me at Boys State and Boys Nation.

I would also like to thank each and every one of you who were involved in all Boys States in the United States for all of the 28,000 men, and I emphasize that word men, for you have made us that way. Thank you for your involvement in Boys State and Boys Nation.

I would like to share with you a few words that inspired me to stand up at both Boys State and Boys Nation for what I believe:

"Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid. Always stand up for what is right and you can never go wrong."

I know that in the future I can and will stand up and be bold in your name, The American Legion, and you will be behind me. Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: American Legion Baseball continued to grow this past year. More than 3,900 American Legion Baseball teams were certified to National Headquarters making them eligible for post-season tournament action. That action concluded just nine days ago with our World Series in Middletown, Connecticut. For the first time in our history the final game was televised on ESPN. This provided tremendous exposure for the excellent caliber of play that we have grown accustomed to over the years.

That caliber of play is well represented today by the 1987 Legion Baseball Player of the Year. It was a year ago that I watched this young man as catcher for the series champions, the Boyertown Pennsylvania Bears. He slammed a homerun in the championship game that brought even me to my feet cheering. Today he is enrolled at Temple University with a full baseball scholarship where he is majoring in Education. He hopes one day to be a teacher to help influence another generation of American children.

Please welcome to Louisville the winner of the 1987 George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year Award sponsored by Boyertown Post 471 in his home town, Wilbur Stout.

WILBUR STOUT
1987 Baseball Player of the Year

Thank you. First I would like to introduce my father, Wilbur Stout. I wish he would come up here with me. It is all because of him that I am here.

I love baseball. It is a great game, but right now I would like to talk about The American Legion and what it means to me.

When I first came here I really didn't understand too much about The American Legion. It was all new to me. All I knew was The American Legion Baseball Program. But, I got to meet a lot of you fellows and I understand now what The American Legion is. I would like to share with you what I think it is.

I think it's about a lot of men that sacrificed a lot for this great country, and they don't want to stop with that. They care about the youth of the country now, and I am very proud to represent the youth of this country, and I promise you, you will all be proud of me some day no matter what I do. Thank you.

* * *

JOHN P. "JAKE" COMER
National Commander
The American Legion
Report to Convention

Now, they are still celebrating. That is great. Now, it is out of order but I am now going to proceed with my, for the sake of a better word, Farewell Address.

My Fellow Legionnaires and Friends, this past year has demonstrated to me the power of the family in America. When you honored me by electing me your National Commander in San Antonio, I spoke to you about the importance of family. This year, as Eileen and I traveled around the world meeting with countless dedicated Legionnaires, my belief in the family has strengthened.

When I accepted your vote of confidence and assumed the duties as National Commander I presented you with four challenges. I challenged you to reach our membership goal of three million members. I challenged you to raise $1,000,000 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. I challenged you to help the freedom-loving people of Central America achieve their goal of democracy and I challenged you to help keep pressure on the Veterans Administration to provide improved services to millions of America's veterans.

You met those challenges. I'm proud of each of you for your dedication and determination in facing these challenges. In true American Legion tradition, you were up to the challenge.

Today we stand and look to the decade of the 1990s, a decade that will bring about the close of the 20th Century and open the expanses of the 21st Century to a new generation of Americans. You, the Legionnaire of today must make a decision about what the 21st Century will be like for those who inherit the future.

There is no disputing the fact that America's veterans are getting older. If our dreams of world peace should come true, some day there will not be an American Legion as we know it today. My hope is not for an end to The American Legion, but an end to war and the death and destruction that accompany it.

But there is a more immediate goal for The American Legion. And that is to make America's veterans aware of the goals of The American Legion and how they are needed to help reach those goals.

During this past year we made great strides in reaching out to the nation's veterans and asking them to become a part of our family. This must continue.

Taking care of the nation's veterans is our top priority. The American Legion continued to work directly with The Veterans Administration to ensure proper medical care was available for all veterans.

This year the nearly 3,000,000 members of The American Legion family reached out to touch the lives of our fellow citizens. By doing so you demonstrated the love you have for your neighbors, your country and our world. I am proud of every one of you.

Through your efforts the total membership figures for The American Legion exceeded last year's. As of our last report the membership total now stands at 2,836,995. That's more than 9,000 above the total 1987 membership figure. With the steady increase in membership we can expect to gain strength which will translate to the improvements in services to veterans, families, our communities and nation.

The strength of The American Legion does not depend on the deeds of a few. No, our strength is firmly rooted in the hearts and minds of the many. As our membership grows, the influence you have on the future of this great nation will grow as well.

The successes we realize in membership today are due to the efforts of each of you. The door-to-door, face-to-face contact with eligible veterans makes our membership program the strongest among veterans organizations. Thank you for making the commitment to go out and talk to our fellow veterans and tell them the story of The American Legion. You make the difference.

By the year 2000,nine million veterans will be age 65 or older and will face a variety of medical problems including Alzheimer's disease and arthritis. And our younger veterans will continue to face the problems of exposure to Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorder. These men and women are fortunate to have the Vietnam Outreach Centers to help them on their road to complete recovery from the devastation of war.

The veterans population covers a wide range of ages and problems and we must be prepared to assist all veterans.

During the past year I had several opportunities to visit VA facilities and voice my concern over the recent trend to cut funding for these vital medical facilities As I said in August in San Antonio's Municipal Auditorium I was not going to stand by and watch veterans entitlements and medical care being cut to the bone.

Just a few months ago, I learned about a Veterans Administration Hospital in Iowa City that was turning away all but service-connected disabled veterans. My response was to call Tom Turnage. I was able to get Jim DeWire, the VA Chief of Staff on the phone and I demanded that this practice stop immediately.

Within 30 minutes I received a phone call the directive issued by the hospital director had been reversed, as were similar directives in four other VA Hospitals.

That is how The American Legion gets things done. When we hear of a crisis we take action. We cannot afford to allow the system to turn away qualified, deserving veterans just at the whim of a hospital director.

Through the efforts of Legionnaires around the country The American Legion made it clear to members of Congress that we support legislation to elevate the Veterans Administration to Cabinet level.

I'm happy to report that, with just a few minor differences, both the House and Senate passed such legislation. It is our hope that after a short time in a Conference Committee this historic legislation will be forwarded to the President, I am told within probably three or four weeks, and with his signature the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will become reality.

This move is vital to the future of veterans entitlements and medical care for our nation's veterans. As the pressure on the current system increases it will fall on the shoulders of The American Legion to see that the entitlements veterans have earned are not tampered with in any way.

During the May meetings this year the National Executive Committee passed a Resolution calling for legislation to address the weaknesses in the VA Claims Appeals Process. The Resolution addressed several key areas of American Legion concern.

They listened so well that Thursday of this week Representative Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi will begin hearings on a bill written by The American Legion HR-5039, the Veterans Reassurance Act. This bill embodies Resolution 34 passed by the National Executive Committee in May. Our Staff is traveling on Wednesday night back to Washington to appear in defense of HR-5039.

Our Resolution calls for the creation of an independent Board of Veterans Appeals not tied to the VA or bound by its precedents.

It also calls for providing statutory procedures governing the VA's conduct of a hearing, investigation, or any other proceeding in conjunction with the consideration of a claim for VA benefits.

The resolution allows for an increase in the amount a veteran may pay an attorney to handle a case before the Board of Veterans Appeals, an amount which is not limited to $10, and the Resolution will allow court review of VA procedures and regulations but not of individual cases based on the facts of the case.

I'm extremely proud of you for standing firmly on the side of veterans. Your response to my call for action was swift and powerful. You voiced the concerns of The American Legion to your representatives in Washington and they listened.

Out Legislators in Washington know that when The American Legion speaks out on an issue, they should perk up their ears and listen. That would not be possible without you, the individual Legionnaire, contacting your representatives and voicing our concerns directly to them. You can take pride in your actions and the effect they are having on legislation vital to the future of America's veterans.

The American Legion continued to pressure the Administration to answer the burning question, "Where are they now?" The POW/MIA issue is still unresolved. We must not forget those who are missing from the arms of their loved ones.

Those unaccounted for from Korea and Vietnam must be remembered. We must stand up for them in the halls of Congress and the White House and seek the answer to the question, "Where are they now?"

I'll continue to wear this MIA bracelet until I have an answer to that question. I ask each of you to continue the fight and help those families who wait for their loved ones.

While a great deal of effort and time went into working on legislative actions surrounding The Veterans Administration, we were also involved in key national security legislation.

The American Legion was instrumental in getting several pieces of veterans legislation passed through Congress and in the hands of the President. Legislation covering topics such as veterans employment and training service: Atomic veterans assistance; and reinstatement of VA travel allowances.

Again this year I had the opportunity to visit Central America and see first hand how the peace process was affecting the citizens of that region. I can say to you that progress had been made, but we are still far away from any kind of agreement which could bring freedom and democracy to all in Central America.

I asked Legionnaires to contact their Congressmen and Senators and seek legislative support for the Freedom Fighters in Central America. The American Legion feels such assistance is vital to ensure that freedom has a chance in Central America.

Detractors of such support said that we should give the peace process a chance and that by supporting the Freedom Fighters we would only delay the process.

The results of the vote on continued funding were well publicized. The legislation was defeated by just nine votes. But did the peace process work? I can stand here today and tell you the answer to that question is no. And I can also stand here and tell those who voted against continued aid to the contras, "We told you so."

The American Legion has not abandoned the freedom-seeking people of Central America. New legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate calling for renewed financial assistance to the Freedom Fighters in Central America.

At every opportunity we will make our voices heard in the halls of Congress. Let's hope they listen this time. We must not let the dream of freedom in Central America die. We must speak out on the side of democracy and against the side of tyranny and oppression.

While Central America remains an important area of concern for The American Legion, not all out attention was focused on that region of the world. Panama, the Persian Gulf and the Philippines also drew our attention during this past year.

During my visit to the Philippines, just a few short months ago, The American Ambassador told me how important the 200 American Legion Posts in that country were to the Administration's Foreign Relations policies in the region.

He asked me to utilize the power of our Legionnaires to talk with the citizens of that nation, to ask them to support a continued American Military presence and not to close our Military bases in the Philippines. Through our continued efforts in the region, we can make a difference in the outcome of this issue that is vital to the national security of America.

As veterans, we took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Each of us proudly put on the uniform of our Armed Forces and served this nation without question.

This year, we are once again called to duty, a duty that we will share with our fellow citizens this November as we exercise a basic right of Americans: voting. We all know The

American Legion does not endorse political parties or candidates. I'm not asking you to alter that position. Instead, I'm asking you to take part in the democratic process you helped to defend by voting in this year's election.

I want you as citizens of the greatest nation on the face of the earth, to get involved in guiding this nation into the 21st Century. You can do that by being involved in our political process. It's not your political affiliation that's important but your political activation. It's more than just your right, it's your duty. Demonstrate your love for America, get out and vote this November.

As in years passed, The American Legion reached out to help the children of this nation through our programs of assistance and education. Focusing on family is an important part of our work with the children of America.

Legion Posts throughout the land contributed more time and energy toward youth programs than ever before. You sponsored more Boy Scout troops, sent more Delegates to Boys State, educated more high school students through the High School Oratorical Contest and sent more young people to law enforcement camps than ever before. There are many other programs too numerous to mention.

Not only did American Legion Baseball field more teams, but for the first time in its history the final game of The American Legion World Series was televised on ESPN. The national exposure will pay dividends far into the future and strengthen an already great program for the youth of this nation.

The American Legion Baseball Program set another first by hosting baseball officials and a team from the Honduras. These young men played an All-Star team from Connecticut prior to the date of this year's American Legion Baseball World Series. It is my hope that this is the first of many such exchanges between our two nations.

When I visited the Honduras and when Jimmy Dean, Past National Commander, visited it before me, we set up this challenge to all of you and you accepted it and you ran it well.

The programs of The American Legion reached into homes and classrooms from Bangor, Maine to San Diego, California and from Seattle, Washington to Miami, Florida.

But these programs are more than just ways for The American Legion to help others, they represent the love and concern each of you have in your hearts for your fellow man.

I know this is why The American Legion will continue to develop and expand our efforts in the area of youth programs.

In San Antonio last August, as I began my year as your National Commander, I presented you with a challenge, a challenge to raise $1,000,000 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

I have been overwhelmed by the response to this challenge. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the Eight and Forty reached deep into their pockets to help us reach and perhaps surpass our million dollar goal. And you saw what happened here just recently.

This money will be put to good use in the years to come by supporting a variety of social and educational programs, research of childhood diseases, helping the children of America prepare for their role as America's future leaders.

We in The American Legion know the importance of children to the future of America. Since our founding in 1919, we have focused a great deal of attention to nurturing these young men and women. By helping them prepare for the future, we guarantee a brighter and happier future for all Americans. While the children of this nation are not 100% of the population, they are 100% of our future.

And that future includes each of you. You have the opportunity today to help shape the course this nation takes as we head for the 21st Century.

During my travels this past year I have met with the finest men and women this nation has, Legionnaires. Your dedication to God and Country are second to none.

I leave office with mixed emotions, but of one thing I am sure. There has been no greater joy and honor in my life than that of serving as your National Commander.

As we stand together looking to the future we can be proud of the accomplishments of the past 69 years. The American Legion has shown a deep and passionate concern for our fellow citizens.

Our love of God, of Country, and family are beacons of hope for future generations. I know that the future of The American Legion is one of strength and caring for our fellow man.

The American Legion has made a difference in the lives of the children of America, our fellow veterans and the future of the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America.

My year as your National Commander has been built on the foundation of the family. Each of you are a member of that family, "Comer's Clan." And I can say without reservation that I'm proud of each and every one of you.

I want to say a special thanks to my aide and his wife, Ed and Pat Norcott. They have traveled with me throughout the year and have been an enormous help.

I also want to thank our National Adjutant Robert Spanogle, the Indianapolis office Executive Director Bill Jackson, the Washington office Executive Director Mylio Kraja.

Keeping track of my every move this year were my secretary Eileen Tharp and Bob's secretary Carolyn Murray.

I'm not sure I could have accomplished so much in 12 months without their dedicated assistance. I thank you both very much.

I want to take a moment to recognize the Staff of the National Organization. The dedication and determination of both the Indianapolis and Washington offices demonstrated to me the day-to-day operations of The American Legion are in the hands of the finest staff anywhere in the world. Thank you all.

But this year has been made possible only because of the dedication and support of my wife. Eileen has traveled with me into each of your Departments, throughout the year. She has provided me with undying love and compassion.

This year I spent a total of 27 days at home and Eileen spent only 50 days. We don't feel any sorrow. Eileen and I feel we spent the past 12 months visiting with family from coast to coast and around the world. That's what being a Commander is all about.

When I think about the numbers they are really staggering. We returned home just last Wednesday from Ireland, the homeland of my mother and father and Eileen's mother and father. Completing my year as your National Commander with a visit to Ireland was a deeply rewarding and significant experience I will remember for the rest of my days, and having the opportunity a week before that in a private visit with His Holiness the Pope, the man who heads up my faith. The honor that you have given me to make these special trips only reaffirms my belief that family is the most important part of life in America.

So, Eileen, along with my children Peggy and her husband Jim, Nancy and her husband Ziggy, and John, and my grandson Sean and Anthony, my mother and all the members of my family and Eileen's family have helped me bring the message of family to you, my American Legion family. Without their support during these many years as a Legionnaire, this year would not have been possible.

To my Post, the Thomas J. Roberts Post No. 78 of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, I've been so proud to wear this 78 on this cap as National Commander. To my Department of Massachusetts, to my District Suffix County back in the Boston area, and to all those leaders of The American Legion and its Auxiliary, the Sons of the Legion, the Eight and Forty, the Twenty and Four, and to all others and my Department who have supported me.

You can well see 10% of the money, they are up to $116,000 actually in the fund. I would like to now leave you with my favorite Irish blessing:

"May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and rains fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may God hold you in the small of his hand."

Many of you have heard me say it before, but it's important to realize that as I close how these words are so real in my heart and my love for all of you:

"When we see, we forget. When we hear, we remember, but when we do, we understand.

God bless you all.

. . . Standing applause.

Thank you very much. You want to know how I feel about that accolade they have just given me? As I sat down I popped my buttons off, so you know how proud I am.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now, it is my honor to extend The American Legion's sincere appreciation to the fine City of San Antonio, Texas, for hosting the National Convention when you elected me to represent you as your National Commander.

PRESENTATION TO CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Host City, 1987 Convention

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: To do that, I would like to call on the man who turned the helm of The American Legion over to me last year. He had a tremendous year as National Commander in 1986 and 1987 and he has continued to contribute significantly to The American Legion, especially with our concerns in Central America.

Fellow Legionnaires, immediate Past National Commander James P. "Jimmy" Dean of Mississippi. Jimmy, will you make the presentation?

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES P. DEAN, Mississippi: It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride on behalf of you, my Fellow Legionnaires and your families that we present to the officials of San Antonio The American Legion Medallion for being the host city last year, and for all those extra courtesies that they showed you and I.

We are presenting the award today to Harvey Holcomb, the President of the Texas Corporation who will present it to the officials at San Antonio at the appropriate time.

PRESIDENT HARVEY HOLCOMB, THE AMERICAN LEGION TEXAS NATIONAL CONVENTION CORPORATION: Thank you, Commander Dean, Commander Comer, Legionnaires and Guests. I'm privileged and proud to represent the very Honorable Henry G. Cisneros and to accept this Medallion in his behalf. I will see that it is presented to him and to the good people of San Antonio in an appropriate ceremony.

I bring you greetings from the Mayor and your many friends in Texas. We are already making plans for your next visit to San Antonio. We don't know if and when that will happen but when you are ready we will be ready. We hope you enjoyed San Antonio as much as we enjoyed having you.

God bless, Godspeed and you'all come back and see us, you hear.

* * *

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
To Rev. Jerry Salveson
(North Dakota) National Chaplain 1987-88

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This past year it has been my pleasure to have served with a man dedicated to the spiritual well-being of humanity. He is a man of compassion and he has contributed greatly to the ideals and principles of The American Legion.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and served on active duty in the Korean War. He is an ordained minister in the American Lutheran Church and is Parish Pastor in his hometown. He has been an inspiration this past year as your National Chaplain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pride that I am able to present to the very Rev. Jerry Salveson this Certificate of Appreciation for his warm and devoted service to The American Legion:

"Certificate of Appreciation presented to Jerry Salveson appointed and served as National Chaplain of The American Legion 1987—1988 given in recognition of faithful and honorable service to The American Legion."

It is signed by John P. "Jake" Comer, National Commander, Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant.

Rev. J. The Certificate of Appreciation goes without saying for all the good work as

National Chaplain of The American Legion. I am very proud to have served with you this year. It is just great, you and your lovely wife.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN REV. JERRY SALVESON: Commander "Jake," it has been a tremendous honor to serve with you this year. I can't possibly say thank you to everybody but I do want to say thank you to the members of my home Post, Gilbert C. Grafton Post No. 2 of Fargo, North Dakota, to the Department of North Dakota, to my wife Adele who stood by me, and especially to my God who has given me the honor of serving The American Legion, the United States of America and Him in this office. Thank you, "Jake," for being a part of that.

* * *

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would like to take just a moment to remind you of a very special opportunity that we of The American Legion have before us today.

Tonight, the President of the United States will address this Convention in a special session, an extraordinary special session set aside for the President exclusively. Obviously, I do not know what he wants to say to us, but I do know that he has appreciated very much the support you have given to his Presidency during the last eight years.

The session is scheduled for 7:00 o'clock, but as you all know, the President's visit always entails a great deal of security and other arrangements. The hall will be open at 5:30 P.M. for open seating, and it is necessary for you to be in your seats no later than 6:30 P.M. There will be magnetometers at every entry, and you will have to pass through these security checks in order to gain access to the hall.

I know I do not need to remind you that this special session is a regular part of the Convention proceedings for this year, and I know that all of you will make the necessary effort and adjustment in your schedules so as to be here for this very important piece of business.

The President's visit has generated a tremendous amount of interest around the country, and I know you all will want to be part of this historic event. It is your opportunity to show the nation how proud you are to be Legionnaires, and Americans, so, we have been singularly honored. Thank you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Mr. Herman G. Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Herman G. Harrington, (NY) Chairman

To the 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988.

Forty-eight members and guests of the section on Credentials and other Internal Affairs met at 9:00 a.m., September 4, 1988, in Room 111, Commonwealth Convention Center, Lower Level, Louisville, Kentucky.

Herman G. Harrington of New York was elected Chairman, and Larry J. Besson of Illinois was elected Secretary.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the report of the National Adjutant as of thirty (30) days prior to the 70th National Convention be based upon the provisions of Section 3, Article V, of the National Constitution: Five Delegates for each Department, plus one additional Delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Convention (August 8, 1988); and one alternate for each Delegate. In addition, in accordance with Section 3, Article VII, members of the National Executive Committee which committee includes the National Commander, who exercises his vote only in his capacity as Chairman of the National Convention, and five (5) National Vice Commanders are Delegates to the National Convention. All living Past National Commanders are members of the National Executive Committee without vote and life Delegates to the National Convention with vote, which is exercised in their respective Departments.

In accordance with the membership report certified to the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs by the National Adjutant on August 8, 1988, and in accordance with Article V of the National Constitution the voting strength of the 58 Departments is 3,213 allocated as follows:

Alabama	32	Missouri	74
Alaska	14	Montana	20
Arizona	37	Nebraska	72
Arkansas	37	Nevada	12
California	149	New Hampshire	30
Canada	7	New Jersey	83
Colorado	28	New Mexico	18
Connecticut	37	New York	216
Delaware	12	North Carolina	53
Dist. of Columbia	11	North Dakota	36
Florida	107	Ohio	157
France	9	Oklahoma	43
Georgia	46	Oregon	32
Hawaii	9	Panama Canal	7
Idaho	15	Pennsylvania	275
Illinois	171	Philippines	13
Indiana	139	Puerto Rico	17
Iowa	89	Rhode Island	16
Italy	6	South Carolina	31
Kansas	63	South Dakota	35
Kentucky	36	Tennessee	44
Louisiana	53	Texas	96
Maine	34	Utah	14
Maryland	85	Vermont	22
Massachusetts	74	Virginia	53
Mexico	7	Washington	42
Michigan	94	West Virginia	34
Minnesota	138	Wisconsin	85
Mississippi	30	Wyoming	14

Mr. Commander, as a duly elected and registered Delegate from the Department of New York, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The motion has been duly made and seconded. On the question, all those in favor; opposed? The ayes have it.

The Report of Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section 1 is adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Mr. Gary W. Sammons of Michigan, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Legislation and Rules for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND RULES

Gary W. Sammons, (MI) Chairman

Your Committee on Legislation and Rules met at 10:00 A.M. on September 4, 1988 in Room 213 of the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. There were 50 Delegates in attendance.

Following preliminary activities to officially organize the Committee, Gary Sammons (MI) was elected Chairman and Charles Pesso (NY) was elected Secretary. The Committee then reviewed and recommended no changes in the standing rules of convention as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedure for Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion. A motion was then carried to recommend adoption of the standing rules.

As chairman of the Committee on Legislation and Rules, I would like to briefly review recent legislative developments in Washington and to discuss several issues that must be resolved before the 100th Congress adjourns this fall. Congressional activities during the first eight months of 1988 have covered a wide spectrum of national and international issues. They range from ratification of a nuclear weapons treaty to the expected creation of a Department of Veterans Affairs.

Foreign policy matters consistently demanded Congressional attention in early 1988. After a series of votes during February and March, Congress approved a package of humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan contras. Although no military aid was provided, recent actions by the Sandinista regime have jeopardized the peace agreement, and it is possible that military aid could be resumed later this year.

The Congressional schedule this year has been restricted by Presidential and Congressional election campaigns, as well as the two political party conventions. Despite these problems, Congress has moved more rapidly on budgetary matters than it has in recent years. House and Senate debate on money issues has been limited in 1988 primarily because of the so-called "budget summit" agreement among Congressional and White House officials last fall. That agreement established spending guidelines for both Fiscal Year 1988 and Fiscal Year 1989.

Those guidelines have affected virtually every federal program. For example, last year's budget agreement restricted national defense spending to $300 billion for Fiscal Year 1989. A defense appropriations bill, subject to those limitations, has cleared the House and the Senate in different forms. As Congress returns to Washington this week it will be necessary to resolve those differences before the measure can be presented for Presidential consideration.

In May of 1988, following an entire year of determined effort by our organization, President Reagan signed into law three veterans bills which make major improvements in a variety of veterans benefits and services. The combined scope of these new laws is so broad that their enactment satisfies more than 30 Legion resolutions.

Just prior to its mid-August recess, Congress cleared several appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 1989. Included in those measures is VA appropriations for the fiscal year beginning October 1. Spending for veterans programs is expected to be $28.2 billion, with $10.5 million more than Fiscal Year 1988, we are concerned that it may not be enough to allow VA to fully carry out its medical mission. Other concerns regarding this same measure include funds for VA regional office operations and veterans job training assistance.

Although Congress has passed a variety of measures in 1988 which have been strongly supported by The American Legion, several important business items remain unfinished. Besides the defense budget mentioned earlier, the Legion will work closely with Congress over the next five weeks on appropriations bills affecting the Coast Guard, nonprofit postal subsidies, and certain Labor Department programs set aside for veterans. Unfinished business also includes compensation increases for service-connected veterans, as well as, legislation to improve the VA claims process.

Perhaps our most important objective is the enactment of legislation to elevate VA to full Cabinet-level status, to create a Department of Veterans Affairs. Different versions of legislation to establish the new Department have been cleared by both chambers, and negotiations are now underway to resolve those differences.

During the next five weeks Congress will be making crucial decisions on Legion legislative interests that will affect billions of dollars in federal spending. Those decisions are also expected to change the focus or approach of certain veterans programs for years to come. Our organization intends to be deeply involved in the debate on these issues and, with your active support, we are confident that the Legion's objectives will be met.

Mr. Commander, as a delegate to this Convention, I move the adoption of this report and the standing Rules of Convention as they appear in the Uniform Code of Procedure.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The report of the Committee on Legislation and Rules is adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Mr. Eugene Lindquist of Minnesota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Children and Youth for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Eugene V. Lindquist, (MN) Chairman

The Convention Committee on Children and Youth met at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 4, 1988, in Room 107 at the Commonwealth Convention Center. The meeting was organized by electing Delegate Eugene V. Lindquist of Minnesota as Chairman and Delegate Donald Gruenbaum of Ohio as Secretary. In attendance were 47 Delegates along with 25 guests. The Delegates agreed upon the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Today, I am excited and proud to report that the National Children and Youth Program is alive and growing. Posts in every corner of our nation have revitalized their memberships through programs supported by their members for the children and youth of their communities. Adding to this local support, your National Headquarters has mailed out hundreds of thousands of informative and timely brochures on subjects that currently relate to our youth. Through such involvement, we are recognized by several public and private child-serving agencies and organizations as a national leader. More importantly, we are now receiving the recognition and support of the communities and their leadership in the daily task of serving the future leaders of our town, states and nation.

If the founding fathers of this great organization could all be here today, I am sure they would be proud and grateful for the special care you have taken of this vital program. When they placed Children and Youth as one of the Four Major Pillars upon which they would build The American Legion, they knew exactly what they were doing. It is reassuring to know that as this basic foundation becomes stronger, we all benefit; particularly the children we serve.

During the 1987-88 program year, we were only able to get 55 percent of our Posts to report to National on the Consolidated Post Report Form. Even with this low percent, listen to the figures we are proud to report: Total expenditures for The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary—$34,785,935. When we add this to all other income and expenditures for the Departments and our affiliates, we arrive at the astounding figure of over 35,000,000. Just think, Legionnaires, we could nearly double this figure if every Post submitted an annual report.

Sometimes it is difficult to establish and justify a program when you have difficulty measuring its effectiveness. Today, your National Children and Youth's major areas of concern are rock solid and the response we have had from our volunteers and non-members is nothing short of phenomenal.

TEENAGE SUICIDE: Over 5,000 children take their own lives each year. Our program recognizing the "Warning Signs" has saved many lives.

MISSING CHILDREN: We have been criticized in The American Legion many times for saying that over 1,000,000 children in this country are missing each year. We are trying to educate our children and adults about strangers, and we have saved many children from being missing.

Saturday, we had a Captain Philip Turner who was at our meeting, who told us that in the City of Louisville last year, they had 3400 missing children. I believe Louisville has about a 500,000 population.

DRUG ABUSE: This is the nation's number one problem. We can't afford not to be involved. The children of this nation need adults like us to lead the way and say, "You can say no to drugs."

Mr. Jim Ward, from the Coast Guard in Washington told us that their allocation this year to pick up traffickers on the high seas was $110,000,000. He said at our Commission meeting that The American Legion was doing more to do away with the drugs than the Coast Guard, that is a tribute to you people who are working so hard as you do on this program.

CHILD SAFETY: We have a new program coming out in Child Safety. More children lose their lives in accidents each year than from any other cause. We are responding to this need by printing two new brochures covering details on the precautions that can be taken. This program has room to grow, and we think that we will see our children expand presently in the months and years to come.

In addition to our main areas of concern, we also have many fine programs that offer diversified evidence of service such as Halloween Safety, Special Olympics, Financial Assistance, Family Week and others.

As you know, and as you have witnessed, this has been a very special year for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. For the past several years, it has been my privilege to serve as Secretary of their Board of Directors. Anyone and everyone who knows anything about this Foundation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to our National Commander, John P. "Jake" Comer. Never before in the 34-year history of this Foundation has the National Headquarters taken such a great interest. The Foundation is growing and our outreach potential has been magnified several times because of the Commander and all you volunteers who have supported him in this cause.

Mr. Commander, I would say to you now that in your work in raising this $1,000,000, we have awakened in The American Legion a sleeping giant and I predict to you that in the years to come, the National Foundation of Children and Youth is going to be one of the greatest Foundations that we have in this country to help the youth of our nation.

We had one Resolution that was received and recorded, and the Resolutions are as follows:

Received and Recorded

Reso. No. 140 (Texas) **Drug Trafficking**

Approved Resolutions

Res. No. 473 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Reaffirming Immunization Program**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that there is no place in civilized society for communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There are, today, vaccines and other specified medical treatment to protect children against communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, There exists today in our country areas with extremely low levels of immunization against certain childhood diseases that may break out in epidemic proportions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That it reaffirms its position of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccine to combat communicable diseases; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts of The American Legion provide leadership and support to stimulate local treatment and immunization programs so that children in every community may achieve the fullest protection against communicable diseases; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That sufficient federal and state funds be provided so that medically indigent children may be afforded an opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunization against all communicable diseases.

Reso. No. 474 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Violence and Vandalism in the Schools**

WHEREAS, Juveniles account for approximately 35 percent of our population and account for better than 50 percent of serious crimes as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports; and

WHEREAS, Numerous elementary schools nationwide are experiencing serious, violent acts of crime and criminal damage; and

WHEREAS, Juveniles are carrying out their acts in their immediate home environment with emphasis to government-support housing projects; and

WHEREAS, Government-supported institutions, specifically schools and housing, spend in excess of $500,000,000 for acts of vandalism; and

WHEREAS, The impact of violence and vandalism affects the morale of students, teachers, administrators, and parents; impedes educational advancement; and fosters and perpetuates patterns of deviancy; and

WHEREAS, Violence and vandalism in the nation's institutions result in enormous loss of educational and domestic resources and human potential, and contribute to the high rates of juvenile delinquency within the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That school boards and state education agencies develop a balanced and effective program, and provide community support to reduce and prevent violence and vandalism in educational institutions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local law enforcement implement effective programs for the amelioration of juvenile delinquency in coordination with the Department of Education, community citizenry and other agencies with the criminal justice system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That local Posts urge and assist those in the educational community and criminal justice system to join together in efforts to reduce the development and prevailing patterns of juvenile delinquency in schools and in our communities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States enact legislation through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a grant program to assist those public institutions and criminal justice agencies in bearing the financial burden to implementing pro-active delinquency prevention programs.

Reso. No. 475 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Child Pornography**

WHEREAS, The very future of our country is being threatened by individuals who would use children in pornographic magazines and films; and

WHEREAS, National crime reports reveal that there is strong correlation between those who read pornographic magazines and those who commit related crimes such as rape, incest, molestations, child abuse and even murder; and

WHEREAS, The use of children as subjects in the production of pornographic materials has a devastating effect upon these innocent children, which is a disgrace to our society; and

WHEREAS, Existing laws dealing with those who produce, sell, and distribute pornographic materials are often weak and/or inadequate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That State Legislatures be encouraged to evaluate and make appropriate improvements in existing laws aimed at those adult individuals involved in the child pornography business; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the strengthening of existing federal legislation by the United States Congress to make penalties severe enough to eliminate the production, distribution and sale of materials that use children in sexually explicit scenes, and we urge the Congress to provide adequate funding, when necessary, to accomplish these goals.

Reso. No. 476 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Pornographic and Obscene Literature**

WHEREAS, Since 1960, The American Legion has maintained a position of complete opposition to the production and sale or distribution of pornographic or obscene materials to children 17 years and under; and

WHEREAS, Present laws forbid the importation of such materials from foreign countries, interstate trafficking, the use of the United States Mail, and use over public radio and television; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to eliminate such protective laws from state and/or federal criminal codes would have a negative impact on our youth and society in general; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion strongly opposes any attempt to weaken our present laws governing the penalties for the production, sale and distribution of pornographic or obscene materials; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States Congress be made aware of our concern through proper legislative channels.

Reso. No. 477 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **National Family Week**

WHEREAS, One of the principles guiding The American Legion's Children and Youth program is to maintain the integrity of the family homes; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening family life; and

WHEREAS, The family is the center of our affections and the foundations of our American society; and

WHEREAS, No institution can take the family's place in giving meaning to human life and stability in our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That it urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish "National Family Week" during the Thanksgiving holiday week as an annual observance.

Reso. No. 478 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **School Nutrition Program**

WHEREAS, There has been an expression of concern by health authorities and various national organizations with an interest in the status of proper nutrition among young people; and

WHEREAS, The Federal School Lunch Program and other federally supported nutrition programs for children have demonstrated their worth as evidenced by a reduction of health problems, improved performance among children and a reduction in the drop-out rate; and

WHEREAS, There are many school systems throughout the United States that do not participate in the federal/state-supported school lunch program; and

WHEREAS, There are many schools and school systems throughout the United States that have never had a lunch program or have dropped existing lunch programs because of the lack of funding, adequate facilities and the training of personnel; and

WHEREAS, Since 1941, The American Legion has supported the Federal School Lunch Program and other related programs of nutrition for children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That the Congress of the United States and the various state legislatures be urged to appropriate funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Reso. No. 479 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Catastrophic Illness Among Children**

WHEREAS, There is an ever-widening crisis in many states relating to the delivery and accessibility of health care and medical treatment to the children of this country; and

WHEREAS, Historically, it has always been "The American Legion's position that all children should have adequate health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Several applications have been received by the National Americanism and Children and Youth Division from Departments requesting Temporary Financial Assistance for needy medical cases; and

WHEREAS, Many children are not receiving needed treatment because their families have been unable to afford the cost of the catastrophic illness to one of their children, and

WHEREAS, Many of these families have hospitalization insurance and yet they cannot meet the cost of major illness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That it reaffirms its position in urging the federal and state governments to enact the necessary legislation to assist, financially, those individual families faced by the catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in lieu of a better approach, the present federal and state Crippled Children's program be expanded to include catastrophic illness, with each state developing its own definition and financial standards relating to catastrophic illness.

Reso. No. 480 (National Convention Commission on Children and Youth) **Drug Trafficking Prevention**

WHEREAS, The illegal trafficking of drugs into the United States is one of the greatest threats to the welfare and safety of our citizens, particularly our youth; and

WHEREAS, The enemies of our Nation and way of life hope to destroy us from within by debilitating our most precious resource for the future, our youth; and

WHEREAS, The economic and social costs of drug abuse annually exceeds the 100 billion dollar mark, and

WHEREAS, The efforts to halt the entry of such illegal drugs may be seen as a war of will and resources—a war that at present we are not winning; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we urge the President and Congress of the United States to fully support with adequate funding all border, state, federal and military drug trafficking prevention programs through which our children and youth might secure a more stable and healthy future.

Mr. Commander, I move adoption of this Report in its entirety?

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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FREEDOMS FOUNDATION AT VALLEY FORGE PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ensuring that future generations appreciate democracy and the responsibilities of individual citizens has been a goal of The American Legion since the beginning.

Our Boys State and National Program, our High School Oratorical Contest are but two examples of our efforts to secure a strong foundation for future leaders.

Another American organization shares these same goals and conducts programs of education helping the youth of today realize the intense effort necessary on the part of individual citizens to see democracy flourish. That organization is the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

My wife and I were privileged to be there just a few months ago, and we stayed at the home of the next gentleman I would like to introduce to you. What a beautiful visit we had. Please welcome the President of Freedoms Foundation, Mr. Robert Miller for the purpose of a presentation.

PRESENTATION

MR. ROBERT W. MILLER
President, Freedoms Foundation

National Commander Comer, Ladies of The American Legion, Distinguished Guests and Fellow Legionnaires, this is a distinct privilege for me to be able, representing Freedoms Foundation, to present one of our very top awards to The American Legion.

It is a particular pleasure for me, having had the privilege as National Commander "Jake" said, to have taken Eileen on our campus, and Betty and I have had the privilege of entertaining them for two days last July and showing them our facilities and our programs. But more importantly than that, getting to know them, and respect them as the great Americans that they are.

And it is a privilege now to call them friends.

As Commander Jake said, the Freedoms Foundation's mission and that of The American Legion are identical, God, Country and Family.

We were founded in 1949, and since that time, our organization has worked very closely with The American Legion. You have supported us, and we have worked with you on a number of projects.

However, I am here today to participate in one of our programs, and that is the presentation of a major Freedoms Foundation Award. This is our oldest program. We were founded in 1949 by Don Belding. General Eisenhower became our Chairman and served until his death in 1969 when the Awards Program was first to begin.

Basically, it recognizes individuals and organizations throughout these United States of ours who do something positive and constructive about building a better nation, as opposed to those who would be destructive and tear it down.

Each year, we impanel an independent jury of leaders of major national organizations, organizations who meet and are campused in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania on the very spot where General Washington and his gallant crew of troops camped in that winter of '77 and '78.

These leaders and national organizations are ones that select the Freedoms Foundation's Awards. It is not the Staff, and it is not our Board of Directors.

Over the years, 12 of your National Chairmen, National Commanders, have served on our National Awards Jury, either while they were National Commanders, or when they became a Past National Commander.

This year, the national leaders of Amvet's Auxiliary, Boys Club of America, Key Club International, which is a part of Kiwanis International, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the National Association of the Secondary School Principals, the National Guard Association, the National School Board Association, the National School Volunteer Program, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Pilots International, Rural 10 International, Women's Overseas Service League, and one of your own, Past President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Lotys Schanel.

These are the people that selected this year's Freedoms Foundation's Award and I am very privileged and very honored to be able to present it to The American Legion. Actually, it is a joint award. It goes to The American Legion and to the Auxiliary—the American League Patriots Medal. Let me read the citation. It says,

"For sponsoring the outstanding program, Boys Nation and Girls Nation for over 40 years. The program brings to boys and to girls representing each state to Washington, D.C. to experience American political progress in action, because The American Legion and the Auxiliary are deeply committed to educating America's youth. This program contributes to developing informed and responsible citizenship, which is essential to the survival of a free society."

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Freedoms Foundation, it is my great privilege to present the American Patriots Medal to The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Bob.

There are five awards given out this year throughout the world like this and thousands have sent in applications expressing what they do, and we are very honored to be one of the five to receive such a prestigious award.

While I was there for two days, I witnessed other organizations that have presented awards to the Freedoms Foundation, and since I did not see one on the wall from The American Legion, I felt we were remiss for all the good that this organization does.

I only hope in the future that this is another area in which we can get involved, because of what they do for so many of us, and their Congressional Medal of Honor Code of Honor represents all who have served in this past award.

You would have to visit that beautiful encampment in Pennsylvania to know of what I speak.

Bob, I would like to present to you, The American Legion's Certificate of Appreciation, presented to Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, the strength of America relies on the solid foundation of citizens who are willing to toil to see democracy flourish. For nearly four decades the efforts of the Freedoms Foundation have played a significant role in encouraging all Americans to be responsible citizens. Freedoms Foundation's programs foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the aspects of American democracy in the political, social, spiritual and economic areas.

This facility continues to enhance the viability and flexibility of our American way of life. The dedication and effort of the Freedoms Foundation is greatly appreciated and acknowledged by the men and women of The American Legion, signed at the 70th National Convention of September 6, 1988 in Louisville, Kentucky, attested by Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant and by John Comer, National Commander."

Bob, it is a privilege to present this to the Foundation.

MR. ROBERT W. MILLER: This is indeed a surprise and a great honor, Commander Jake.

We are deeply grateful to you and The American Legion.

This will hang in a place of prominence in the Freedoms Foundation. Many of you have been on our campus, and many of you haven't, and to those that haven't, we urge you come and visit us, and you will see this displayed prominently and with pride. Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Robert Turner, Chairman of the Americanism Commission.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM

Robert Turner, (GA) Chairman

To the 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988.

Forty-five members of your Convention Committee on Americanism met at 8:30 A.M. on Sunday, September 4, 1988 in Room 108 of the Commonwealth Convention Center to discuss matters of Americanism-related resolutions assigned to the Committee.

The Committee organized by electing Robert S. Turner (GA), as Chairman; Daniel J. O'Connor (NY) as Vice-Chairman; and Joseph Sklenar (IA) as the Secretary.

After initial instructions to the Delegates, the Committee of the whole recessed to Subcommittees with William C. Plowden, Jr. (SC) as Chairman of Baseball and Youth Activities Subcommittee; and Albert J. Moeller, Jr. (NJ) serving as Chairman of the Counter-Subversive Activities Subcommittee.

The Subcommittees and consequently the Committee of the whole assembled, and discussed at length a total of 31 resolutions assigned to the Committee. I wish to point out that the resolutions considered continue to reflect the desire by many Departments of The American Legion to address matters of patriotism and government, and to maintain strong general Americanism programs that compliment the Organization and benefit the Nation.

Eighteen (18) Resolutions were approved: One (1) Resolution was approved as amended; two (2) Resolutions were approved as consolidated; two (2) Resolutions were approved as consolidated and amended; four (4) Resolutions were received and recorded; and four (4) Resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission on Americanism.

The following Resolutions were approved:

Res No. 65 (OH)—Subject: **Pearl Harbor Day**

WHEREAS, December 7, 1941 is the "day that will live in infamy" and is the day that changed the lives of everyone on earth; and

WHEREAS, On this day over two thousand American lives were lost plus millions of dollars in damage to ships, planes and property; and

WHEREAS, These losses were sustained in a sneak attack on a Sunday morning from a nation that we were at peace with; and

WHEREAS, This nation should never forget the sacrifices of those brave Americans and the folly of not being prepared to defend this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, The media around the world gives great coverage to the memorial services at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, even though these people were forewarned and were not subject to a sneak attack from a nation they were not at war with; and

WHEREAS, Everyone should be reminded that if there had not been an attack on Pearl Harbor there would not have been a need to destroy these two cities in lieu of an invasion of the Japanese homeland—an invasion that could have cost a million more American and Japanese lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion join with other concerned groups and expand their Memorial Services on December 7th and that every American Legion Post be requested to fly their Flags at half-staff until noon and to have a candle-light service that evening in order that we never forget Pearl Harbor Day—a day which has become a part of our American heritage; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage Congress to add this to the U.S. Flag Code similar to Memorial Day observance.

Res No. 325 (MA)—Subject: **To Establish Proper Recognition of Posts Who Sponsor Finalists in American Legion National Oratorical Contest**

WHEREAS, The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest program is a most important and well-known program conducted under the aegis of The American Legion National Americanism Commission; and

Whereas, The program arouses strong interest in the contestants, their families and all other who participate in the contests, with many scholarships being awarded at Post, District, State and National level to the contestants; and

WHEREAS, The success of the entire program is established by the workers of the individual sponsored Legion Posts throughout the participating Departments of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That the National Americanism Commission initiate forthwith an annual method of suitable recognition to those sponsored American Legion Posts whose contestants become National Finalists in the program.

Res No. 481 (Conv. Committee on Americanism) Subject: "I Am an American" Day

WHEREAS, In 1940, Congress passed a resolution officially observing the third Sunday in May as "I Am An American" Day, and this was observed from 1941 through 1951; and

WHEREAS, The original Resolution was brought about through the efforts of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the name and date has changed but the purpose of publicly recognizing those who by coming of age or naturalization have attained citizenship remains the same; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion 1940 National Convention Resolution on this is no longer in effect due to Presidential proclamations and the combining of "I Am An American" Day "Constitution Day"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion received full recognition for their cooperation with the Immigration Naturalization Service and the local community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion support legislation for the third Sunday of each October to be permanently designated as "I Am An American" Day, and upon adoption of this Resolution appropriate Federal Legislation be drafted for Congress of the United States.

Res No. 482 (Conv. Committee on Americanism) Subject: **Illegal Aliens**

WHEREAS, Current law, as established with "The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986" (IRCA) has not achieved the results desired by The American Legion for addressing the many and varied problems created by illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, Even with IRCA regulations in effect, the number of illegal aliens apprehended at our borders according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, was 989,000 for 1986-87; and

WHEREAS, Illegal Aliens in the United States create serious economic problems which include increased welfare costs, adverse effects on the American labor market, an the expense of detecting, detaining, processing and deporting of apprehended illegals; and

WHEREAS, Veterans are displaced from employment by the employment of illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, There must be a broad range of information and related action among those Executive Departments responsible for dealing with various aspects of immigration law and illegal aliens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion wishes to reiterate its opposition to any type of amnesty ("Legalization") program, that excuses and rewards the law-breaking illegal aliens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we support strict enforcement of employers sanctions as called for in current law that provide heavy penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), be provided the monies necessary to ensure both the thorough performance of their duties and the security of the borders of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That aliens illegally in the United States should be denied Social Security, unemployment and other types of public assistance; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States not to extend or enhance the legalization program beyond what is specifically outlined in IRCA law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the INS or other appropriate government agency develop a secure method of worker authorization; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls for legislation to guarantee a free flow of information and technical assistance between the agencies of government tasked with the various aspects of the illegal alien issue; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That because certain industries within the United States face persistent and/or seasonal labor shortages, The American Legion would support a temporary workers program, provided a numerical quota would be established for such a program and that it would be tightly administered by the appropriate government agency.

Res No. 482 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Flag Code Amendment to Include Fathers Day in the List of Holidays On Which The Flag should be Displayed**

WHEREAS, Fathers Day is not listed in the current Flag Code, Title 36, U.S. Code, Chapter 10, sub-section 174, sub-paragraph D; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That the Flag Code be amended to include Fathers Day in the list of holidays on which the Flag should be displayed.

Res No. 484 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Include "Pause for the Pledge" in National Flag Day Celebration**

WHEREAS, By Act of Congress of the United States, dated June 14, 1977, the first official Flag of the United States was adopted; and

WHEREAS, By Act of Congress, dated August 3, 1949, June 14 of each year was designated "National Flag Day; and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association in Baltimore, Maryland, has been the official sponsor since 1952 of National Flag Day for the United States; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 1980, the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association developed a national campaign to encourage all Americans to Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as part of National Flag Day ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Since this concept caught the imagination of Americans everywhere and has received wide citizen support and recognition, there has now been created the National Flag Day Foundation, Incorporated, to plan the Nation's Flag Day ceremonies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we urge the Congress of the United States to designate the Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as a part of the celebration of National Flag Day throughout the Nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Americans be urged to participate by reciting in unison, the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag on June 14 of each year.

Res No. 485 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Opposition To Private Initiatives By American Citizens To Affect Foreign Policy Of The United States**

WHEREAS, The conduct of foreign policy is the responsibility of the Government of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Private citizens are prohibited from the conduct of such policy without the express and prior authorization of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Private citizens who journey to foreign nations hostile to the United States or engaged in hostilities against the United States and who oppose therefrom policies of the United States of America do thereby inflict real harm on the United States and members of the United States Armed Forces responsible for carrying out such policy; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long opposed any action by any individual, group or organization which has as its express or resultant purpose the giving of aid or comfort to foes of the United States and its way of life; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion finds it reprehensible that those who attempt to subvert the system and policies of the government of the United States do enjoy the benefits of that system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we reaffirm our opposition to private initiatives undertaken by American citizens which undermine and pre-empt that foreign policy of the United States Government without express and prior authorization of the United States Government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion voices its abhorrence of any and all actions inimicable to the best interests of the United States and its Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion renews its call upon the President of the United States of America and the Department of Justice to undertake and complete a detailed investigation of the activities, events and incidents as have been or may be reported from time to time to be contrary to the law and best interests of the United States of America; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls for and supports the prosecution of any and all violators of applicable laws of the United States of America to the fullest extent of such law.

Res No. 486 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Voluntary School Prayer—Legislative Solution**

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans have historically believed in seeking God's protection and guidance through prayer; and

WHEREAS, The value of expressing spiritual convictions through public prayer has been recognized as a firm basis on which to conduct public proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court decisions during the early 1960s have had the effect of severely restricting the practice of any manner of public prayer although these decisions simply addressed prescribed or compulsory prayer; and

WHEREAS, This restriction is most evident in our nation's public schools where a concurrent moral and spiritual decline is clearly manifested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we urge the Congress of the United States to assume its responsibility in correcting the unnecessary problems created by court rulings which prohibited prescribed or compulsory prayer; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Congress of the United States to express its majority belief in the value of voluntary prayer in public schools and at other public gatherings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress pass legislation to promote the concept of school prayer, including the approval of legislation to pre-empt federal courts from rendering decisions on prayer issues if such pre-emption is deemed necessary to insure that our nation's public school children have a daily opportunity to pray; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all U.S. Senators and Representatives, the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Chairman of both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, and the President of the United States.

Res No. 487 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Reaffirmation of American Legion Support Of The CIA and FBI**

WHEREAS, The Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both security agencies of this nation, perform functions essential to the maintenance of our national security; and

WHEREAS, These agencies from time to time come under attacks both from enemies of our country and from misguided idealists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately take action as may be appropriate and necessary to significantly strengthen both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other intelligence and security agencies that protect us from foreign espionage, organized crime and subversive activities.

Res No. 488 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Restore Patriotic Holidays To Traditional Dates**

WHEREAS, The dates of certain patriotic holidays have been changed from their original dates to create "three-day weekends"; and

WHEREAS, The time-honored traditional observances of these holidays have been eroded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we call upon the Congress of the United States to restore the official observance of Washington's Birthday to February 22, Memorial Day to May 30 and Columbus Day to October 12 each year.

Res No. 489 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Internal Security of the United States**

WHEREAS, The Attorney General's list, the Guide To Subversive Organizations has been discontinued by Executive Order No. 11785 and dated June 4, 1974; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has since virtually abandoned any investigation of government employment applicants for subversive activities, or membership in subversive organizations, to include membership in the Communist Party; and

WHEREAS, Such inaction must certainly contribute to the weakening of the internal security of the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we call upon the Congress and the President of the United States to approve legislation and executive action necessary to deny Communists the ability to infiltrate and subsequently destroy our government agencies and institutions through federal employment.

Res No. 490 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Recommend That The U.S. Senate And The House Of Representatives Recite The Pledge Of Allegiance At The Beginning Of Each Daily Session**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives begin each daily session acknowledging the presence and guidance of a Supreme Being through prayer; and

WHEREAS, It is customary in the opening of public meetings to recite the Pledge of Allegiance following the prayer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That the President of the U.S. Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be encouraged to lead the members of their respective House in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each daily session.

Res No. 491 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **The English Language Be Declared The Official Language Of The United States**

WHEREAS, In the United States the English language is undergoing gradual displacement in this era of high immigration; and

WHEREAS, While many immigrants want to learn English because it is the key to economic opportunity in the United States, some immigrant groups appear to minimize the English language concept, providing little encouragement to learn English and thereby discouraging newcomers from joining the mainstream culture in America; and

WHEREAS, Bilingual education programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education, in large, are designed to provide long-term instruction in a student's native language while English is subjected to a secondary status; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned programs and practices tend to encourage separatism rather than unification of purpose; and

WHEREAS, The cost to all Americans would be unaccountable if legal papers, ballots, court proceedings and laws were printed in foreign languages an dialects; and

WHEREAS, English has been recognized as the official language in eleven states that have enacted legislation or amended their constitutions to designate it as such; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we strongly urge that by an act of Congress and acts by State legislatures and English language be declared the official language for government in the United States; and, be if further

RESOLVED, That the American Legion should work to develop in all Americans an appreciation for the role English plays in holding our society together and making this nation strong; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress, through legislative action, to increase support for and fund alternative bilingual education programs that will serve as short-term steps for immigrants to achieve proficiency in the English language.

Res No. 492 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Amend U.S. Flag Code To Establish The Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day As A Flag-Flying Day**

WHEREAS, There have been prisoners of war in, and as a result of each war and almost all armed conflicts, and many times and for many years, very little or no recognition was given to those POW's; and

WHEREAS, The Korean and principally the Vietnam "armed conflicts" have greatly brought to the attention of the citizens, veterans and government of the United States the problem of and slight recognition of POWs; and

WHEREAS, At least 2,400 U.S. veterans of armed services are still missing in action in the Vietnam "armed conflict" in spite of all efforts of the citizens and veterans and the government of our United States; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Flag Code provides for flying the U.S. Flag on days to recognize certain national and religious holidays, groups of citizens or persons famous in our history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion support and request of Congress an amendment of the U.S. Flag Code to establish the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day as a Flag-flying day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all American Legionnaires who "fly" the U.S. Flag be encouraged to do so on POW/MIA Recognition Day and that they encourage friends and neighbors to do likewise.

Res No. 493 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Support Legislation HR 1244 and S109 (Filipino Veterans)**

WHEREAS, Legislation particularly HR 1244 and S109 was sponsored/filed by Rep. Mervyn Dynally and Senator Daniel Inouye, respectively, which would grant eligibility to Filipino World War II veterans to become U.S. citizens, is now subject to discussion in the sub-committee on Immigration and Refugee Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Existing legislation provides for benefits thereby granting Filipino World War II veterans who are actually in the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since the cessation of hostilities of World War II in 1946, only relatively few Filipino veterans were able to enter United States territory to avail of their eligibility to become U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Philippine Department has deemed it urgent to take up the cudgel for those remaining Filipino World War II veterans who were and still are deprived of the privilege to enter the territory of the United States in order to avail of the benefits of eligibility to become U.S. citizens, unless they become U.S. residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we support legislation in favor of Filipino World War II veterans thereby granting eligibility to become U.S. citizens even if they are residing in the Philippines or elsewhere abroad.

Res No. 494 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Re-Establish House Committee On Internal Security**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of Congressional Investigating Committees that expose the truth about subversive activities which contribute to the harm and destruction of our Constitutional government; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we urge all U.S. Congressmen to support and co-sponsor House legislation to restore the U.S. House Internal Security Committee.

Res No. 495 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Oppose Foreign Manufacture Of American Flags**

WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States is a uniquely American symbol; and

WHEREAS, The Flag Code of the United States as listed in Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, subsection 176(j) states that: "The Flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing"; and

WHEREAS, Thousands upon thousands of Americans have risked, and in many cases given, their lives in the defense of the Flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that foreign manufacturers have begun making and importing United States Flags and/or merchandise which violate certain provisions of the United States Flag Code; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 191, 1982 National Convention, Chicago, Illinois resolves that The American Legion promote through its Posts and Departments the purchase of American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1, National Executive Committee, October 13-14, 1982, resolved that The American Legion urge the General Services Administration of the U.S. Government to purchase and lease American manufactured goods; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 157, 1987 National Convention, San Antonio, Texas, resolved that we support legislation to have the Army and Navy purchase United States steel and to void all contracts with foreign imports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion encourage its membership through the Departments and Posts to purchase and display only American manufactured Flags of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation through the United States

Congress to prohibit the importation of foreign made Flags of the United States; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek additional legislation tó prohibit the importation of any item of merchandise bearing a design, in any shape, size or medium, which the average person might believe to represent the Flag of the United States.

Res No. 496 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **Flag Code Amendment**

WHEREAS, The United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, Subsections 173-178, is a codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, Practices and customs have been modified in the past few years regarding certain display procedures, and

WHEREAS, Previous modifications of the Flag Code did not clearly state the intent of some procedures, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion seek the appropriate legislation or Presidential proclamation to alter, amend, or modify, as indicated, the following provisions of the United States Flag Code, Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10:

NOTE: Underscored and bold print are recommended additions, underscored strike-overs are recommended deletions.

SS174. Time and occasions for display

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; (**Martin Luther King Day, third Monday in January;**) Inauguration Day, January 20; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); **Thomas Jefferson Birthday, April 13;**) (**Loyalty Day—Law Day U.S.A., May 1;**) Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; (**National Maritime Day, May 22;**) Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; (**Flag Week, week of June 14;**) (**Father's Day, third Sunday in June;**) Independence Day, July 4; (**Aviation Day, August 19;**) Labor Day, first Monday in September; ~~Constitution Day~~ (**Citizenship Day**), September 17; (**American Gold Star Mothers Day, last Sunday in September;**) Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veteran's Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

SS175. Position and manner of display

(f) When flags (**or pennants**) of States, cities, ~~or~~ localities, ~~or pennants of~~ societies (**, or corporations**) are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right. (**, that is the observer's left.**)

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. (**The flag of the United States should be on its own right, the observer's left. The flags of other nations are displayed on the observer's right and in alphabetical order from left to right.**)

(m) **The flag displayed at half-staff is a sign of national mourning and a mark of respect to the memory of principal figures of the U.S. or State Government and should not be so displayed, except as provided herein, or in special proclamation by the President of the United States or the Governor of any state, territory or possession. No other official may designate the United States Flag to be displayed at half-staff.**) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession~~,~~(.) ~~as a mark of respect to their memory,~~ In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders~~, or~~ in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or, possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. As used in this subsection—

(1) The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;

(2) the term "executive or military department" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5; and

(3) the term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico.

SS176. Respect for flag

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered **(,printed or used in a design)** on such articles as cushions **(,linens,)** ~~or~~ handkerchiefs **(,clothing, labels,)** and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, **(postal workers,)** and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

The following Resolution was approved as amended:

Res No. 127 (Conv. Committee on Americanism)—Subject: **The American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year**

WHEREAS, The American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year for outstanding service on and off the field is made annually to a Major League player; and

WHEREAS, The purpose and intent of the Award is to recognize not only the accomplishments of a Major League player, but particularly to focus attention of the American people on the contribution of The American Legion in providing more than six decades of American Legion Baseball to the youth of America in a public ceremony on a Major League field with the widest media coverage possible focusing on the National Commander, American Legion and the player; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion reserve the right to modify the method of presenting the award if the intent of our National Organization and the respect due the National Commander is not recognized by any Major League club which declines to implement this honor by an appropriate public ceremony on the Major League playing field before baseball fans and the media, and, that, in the discretion of the National Commander, a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Presidents of the National and American Leagues and the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball.

The following Resolutions were approved as consolidated:

Res No. 254 (D.C.) and Resolution No. 428 (MD) both entitled, **United States Constitution,** using the language of Resolution No. 254.

WHEREAS, The American Legion remains committed to the defense of the Constitution of the United States, including any legal defense against those who intend to change the document's intent or expand its purpose; and

WHEREAS, The integrity of the Constitution is being challenged by persons who state that it does not meet the requirements or demands of modern society; and

WHEREAS, The integrity of the Constitution is being challenged by persons who state that it does not meet the requirements or demands of modern society; and

WHEREAS, Efforts are underway to convene a Constitutional Convention ostensibly to mandate a balanced federal budget, although convening such a convention could result in radical Constitutional changes that would go far beyond budgetary matters; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for any Constitutional Convention to yield to the demands of varied special interests, and, in so doing, to fundamentally alter the basic provisions of our nation's governing document; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That we express firm opposition to convening a Constitutional Convention and to any efforts seeking to re-write the U.S. Constitution beyond the existing procedures required for amending the document.

The following Resolutions were approved as consolidated and amended:

Res No. 164 (PA) and Resolution No. 427 (MD) both entitled, **Jane Fonda,** using the language of Resolution No. 427.

WHEREAS, Jane Fonda appeared on the American Broadcasting Company's "20/20" news program and when pressed by Barbara Walters as to her feelings, she said she wants to tell the American people she was sorry for her actions with the enemy during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, A great many of America's fighting men and women lost their lives, were wounded, tortured and suffered in many other ways because of Jane Fonda's dealing with the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Until she proves without any doubt that she is truly sorry for her actions by using her influence with the government she supported against the United States to get the return or an accounting for our MIA's and POW's; and

WHEREAS, We of The American Legion do not believe her apology was in any way sincere and was only stated on the TV program as a ruse to further enhance her many commercial undertakings; and

WHEREAS, To prove she is sincere, Ms. Fonda should use her time, money and energy in every way possible to give aid to those wounded in action and to those needy families of servicemen and women who died while serving their country in Southeast Asia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That The American Legion go on public record as opposed to accepting Ms. Fonda's apology until she proves by her actions in a show of good faith by her aid and comfort to those who even today suffer because of the torture inflicted by the enemy brought on by her dealing with the enemy.

The following Resolutions were received and recorded:

Res No. 221 (IN)—Subject: **"In God We Trust"**

Res No. 129 (NY)—Subject: **Memorial Day**

Res No. 251 (GA)—Subject: **Memorial Day**

Res No. 128 (NY)—Subject: **The English Language Be Declared As The Official United States Language**

The following Resolutions were referred to the Standing Committee

Res No. 71 (OH)—Subject: **William Lietz**

Res No. 300 (VA)—Subject: **National Geographic And The Flag Code**

Res No. 9 (AZ)—Subject: **Flag Desecration**

Res No. 461 (CA)—Subject: **Emergency Services Volunteers**

That completes the Report of your Americanism Committee, and as a Delegate to this Convention, I move for its adoption. . . . The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

* * *

AWARDS OF AMERICANISM COMMISSION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It's appropriate to pause here to announce the winner of three other awards presented by the Americanism Commission.

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Award is given annually to the Department within the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in using The American Legion School Medal Program. This year's winner is the Department of the District of Columbia.

The Frank Belgrano, Jr., Award is given annually to the Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the 12-month period beginning August 1st to the Boy Scouts of America Program. This year's winner is the Department of Colorado.

At this time I would like John P. Levesque, Publisher of the Intelligencer to come forward to help with the Presentation.

MR. JOHN P. LEVESQUE, PUBLISHER, *The Intelligence:* Thank you, Commander. I actually had a 45-minute speech prepared, but since we are running late, as any good newspaperman, I edited my speech considerably.

I would just like to say congratulations to the Department of Maryland. This is the fourth year in a row that Maryland has won the Americanism Award.

And it is the fifth out of six years. It is quite evident that William Randolph Hearst Americanism Award is a highly prized trophy. It is not uncommon for states to win it six, seven, eight years in a row.

On behalf of Frank Benedict, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hearst and William Randolph Hearst, Jr., who is Editor and Chief of the Hearst Newspapers, it is indeed a pleasure to congratulate the Department of Maryland and Past Commander Lee Fisher, and the present Commander, Bob Redyk.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER LEE FISHER, Maryland: Commander Comer, and Delegates, it does give me a lot of pleasure and pride to accept this trophy for our fourth consecutive year, and five out of six.

There is an awful lot of work that goes into this, and two people deserve an awful lot of credit, Miss Judy Moody, who is our Commission Chairman, and John Stoeffer, who is our Foundation Chairman. It takes a lot of work for this, and we are very proud of them and our 77,000 members.

God bless you one and all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Lee. Congratulations to the Department of Maryland.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Before we introduce the next guest, which just happens to be with somewhat of appropriate planning, a General, talking about our beautiful foundation, and the fact that we had a celebration this morning, and the balloons came down, and they keep popping everywhere, and occasionally as we are speaking from the podium we can hear an occasional "pop." So I told the General not to be concerned if he hears a pop and not to duck. It is just one of our balloons.

Our next guest is charged with running the largest independent agency in the government. The Veterans Administration operates the largest medical system in the free world, and administers programs for the nation's veterans and their families.

Before his appointment as head of the VA, he was the Director of the Selective Service. He retired a Major General after serving in the military for more than 39 years.

The work of the VA is more than a passing concern for The American Legion. We were there at the agency's birth, and we will be there whenever veterans need help from the government they defended.

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the Honorable Thomas K. Turnage, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

HONORABLE THOMAS K. TURNAGE
Administrator of Veterans Affairs

Thanks, Commander Comer, National Adjutant Spanogle, Executive Director Kraja, National Service Director Sommer, Auxiliary President Behrend, other Distinguished Officers of The American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary, Honored Guests, Comrades, Friends, All.

It is a distinct privilege and pleasure for me to be here in Louisville with you for your 70th National Convention of The American Legion.

It is also an honor for me to speak to America's paramount veterans organization. And I am certainly delighted to be here with you today.

Before I proceed with my prepared remarks, please allow me a point of privilege to break with precedent and say something about someone who deserves special recognition, and I know you share this with me, about your Commander "Jake" Comer.

Jake's pride in the accomplishments of this organization and his overall philosophy of what the Legion is and should be is expressed best in the Commander's message in the current issue of The American Legion Magazine.

I consider his leadership to be outstanding, and we in the Veterans Administration feel honored to have worked so closely and effectively with him during the past year.

We extend heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, General.

ADMINISTRATOR TURNAGE: As a token of our esteem, both personally and professionally, it is my privilege to present him with the highest award that I am authorized to bestow, the Administrator's Award.

Commander, we wish you well.

. . . At this time the National Commander Comer was presented with a plaque.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much.

ADMINISTRATOR TURNAGE: Also, I want to congratulate the Legion leadership on the pending selection of "Jake's successor." You have got an outstanding group of candidates here, and I know that you will find a fine Commander who will represent you with distinction. Seventy years ago, in that time, America has gone from watching the infancy of manned flight to seeing man land on and return from the moon, and in that time, Americans have fought and sacrificed and died in at least a half a dozen wars and major conflicts.

As a foremost veteran's organization, the Legion has contributed to the fabric of American life over an extended period of time, in a way unique from any other group in our society today.

Cut across the spectrum of our activities, and you reveal a cross-section of the heart of America, community activities, national security and foreign affairs, political action, veterans service, and of course, the invaluable volunteer work in VA Hospitals, just to name a few.

Your membership has given at least as much to America peacetime, as they did on the battlefields of the world. And they do it not for money, or for fame, or for power, they do it for love of country.

And being one of you, I obviously like the fact that we start each of our proceedings with The Pledge of Allegiance.

And it's that love and that spirit with which you so willingly devote your services and resources that makes this nation strong, and the envy of the entire world.

Your public achievements and continued concern for the nation's veterans captures the sense of patriotism that makes us proud.

In your 70 years of existence, no one has done more, not only on behalf of American veterans, but for all Americans, and as "Jake" Comer so aptly stated in the article The American Legion Takes More than it Gives, of American Veterans, gives us a wider sense of serving our country. I salute you.

I had a number of items that I wanted to discuss with you today, but the more I thought about them the more I realized it is not so much what you talk about but how people perceive what you are talking about, and it's also embraced in the challenge of communication.

The best example of that I can give involved the story about the individual down in the southern part of our nation who kept coming over the border to rob banks, and one day in the midst of that act he was caught by the local sheriff and the sheriff started giving chase. And the sheriff chased him 40 miles down into Mexico.

Finally he caught the guy but he couldn't speak Spanish and the guy couldn't speak English, so he took him to the local Magistrate.

He said, "Would you help?"

He said, "Of course."

"Well," he said to the Magistrate, "ask him if he is the guy that I was chasing for 40 miles."

He said, "Are you the guy that the sheriff has been chasing for 40 miles?"

He said, "Si."

He said, "Ask him what he did with the money."

He said, "What did you do with the money?"

He said, "I will never tell."

"The guy said he will never tell."

The sheriff took his six-gun, planked it up on the table loudly and profoundly and said, "Tell the guy if he doesn't tell me what he did with the money I will kill him on the spot."

The Magistrate turned and said, "The sheriff is disenchanted." He said, "Tell him what you did with the money or he is going to kill you on the spot."

The guy thought long and hard and he said, "Well, I hid the money at the bottom of the well by the road on the way into town."

The Magistrate turned to the sheriff and said, "The guy said he is prepared to die."

Well, I can tell you what I have learned about communication since I have been the Administrator, and some of it I have learned the hard way, but, sometimes the better perspective on an issue can overwhelm the issue itself.

Let me explain that by way of another story. It's about the American Embassy official who was being taken on a sightseeing tour by his Soviet counterpart. They pulled up before a large magnificent waterfall and they got out to take a look. The Soviet said, "Go ahead and jump over."

The American said, "Hey, I have got a wife and three kids."

Well, the Soviet turned to his driver and said to jump over and the guy did, and the American, filled with compassion and concern and understanding, started going down through the rocks and foliage and all the rest of it to find the Soviet driver at the bottom of the waterfall drying himself off. The American said, "When he told you to jump why did you jump?"

And the driver said, "I have got a wife and three kids."

Well, the story serves to illustrate that two individuals who share the same goal when faced with the same dilemma may take completely different courses of action, an individual's perspective can cause him to end up all wet or sometimes worse. The same is true in the arena of Veterans Affairs.

All of us, VA employees, veterans service organizations, the Congress and the Administration have precisely the same goals in mind, quality care and benefits for America's veterans.

You would think that would be enough to keep us all on the same page as we go about the business of helping veterans get what they deserve and have earned.

But some continue to take a negative, even a destructive, approach to the problem. Lately we have heard more disparaging voices, both from within and outside the veteran community, saying the VA is an insensitive bureaucracy, not meeting the needs of the veteran community. They say VA should not be accorded any greater influence, and these voices have grown stronger as the movement to elevate VA to Cabinet level has taken hold.

You have seen it manifest in scores of editorials from the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and literally dozens more. I have personally visited the key ones and challenged some 60 others in writing. It is amazing what they don't know about our system.

As the Reagan Presidency nears the end of its administration of our American government you may hear even more.

Yet when they call for a return to "The Good Old Days", or a so-called, "change of direction," they do not seem to have a very good sense of recent history.

Their memories are short when they talk about national morale and pride, national defense, state of the economy, levels of employment, support for the VA, and on and on ad infinitum.

Again, a story that the President tells should help us sharpen that recall. There was an old farmer who owned a piece of creek-bottom land and decided to do something with it.

It was covered with rocks and brush, debris, so he hauled all that away and started cultivating and fertilizing and planting and applying a good bit of hard work.

Before too long he had a beautiful garden down there. He was so proud of it that one Sunday after church services he invited the minister out to see it.

The minister did come, and he looked and said, "I've never seen anything like it. Look at these melons, how the Lord has blessed this land, and this corn and these beans. Thanks to the Lord."

So, he went on and on giving Devine credit for everything in sight.

The old farmer was getting a little fidgety by now. Finally the minister said, "Oh, Praise the Lord for what has happened here."

The old farmer said, "Reverend, I wish you could have seen this place when the Lord was doing it by himself."

Well, like that minister, a lot of folks seem to be giving credit and laying blame where it isn't due.

Some may have forgotten the situation America faced in 1980, 14% inflation, double-digit unemployment, and record-high 21% interest rates were choking economic growth and lowering our standard of living.

Just recall what they did to the veterans, or anybody else, who wanted to buy a home.

An ever-rising federal tax and regulatory burden was strangling individuals and businesses alike. Declining American prestige and military preparedness were undermining our national security.

The election of Ronald Reagan and George Bush marked the beginning of a dramatic turnaround for America that continues to this day, and I do mean dramatic.

Of paramount importance, as you recall, because it is one of your great concerns supported by this organization, was the state of defense of the country at the time, and you remember all of the stories about the so-called hollow Army. The Navy had 21,000 petty officers short, the exodus problems from the Air Force of pilots and highly technically trained non-commissioned officers, and the general national malaise that existed.

Well, you know what has happened in the interim. Since that time also over 17,000,000 jobs have been created in our country.

In last month's report the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, the lowest since August 1974, and veterans did even better.

This month the economy will complete its 70th consecutive month of expansion, an historical record, and in May the consumer confidence index was the highest it has been since December 1969.

In essence, under President Reagan's and Vice President Bush's leadership, we have turned our economy and our defense posture completely around.

In office, they have done more, contrary to what critics might say, to improve and to enhance veterans benefits and services than any administration since the return of our servicemen and women from World War II.

Even in today's environment of—please hear me—of bipartisan efforts to cut federal spending, VA's budget, work force and physical plant are all larger than they have ever been. Even though we are spending $450,000,000 more on health care this year than last year, medical care funds are tight and I have full realization of that fact.

Part of the problem relates to the expansion of entitlements by the Congress without a concurrent appropriation of funds. That has been partially solved for the current year and we have already submitted a supplemental to rectify the situation for the next budget year.

I have not attempted to minimize the challenges we face, but neither have I resorted to hyperbole or emotions or antidotes or negativism as the means to solve what amounts to very complex management problems.

Last year we spent more than $770,000,000 to renovate, refurbish and construct new buildings in our system. That is the greatest amount in real dollars since 1945.

Isn't it amazing that you never heard these initiatives, dollar amounts or achievements extolled.

By the way, parenthetically, let me point out in the current American Legion Magazine, Bill Lenker has an article in there about the health care system in the VA, and I have to tell you it is so balanced, it is so objective, it is so positive I commend it to you.

In spite of all that has been accomplished there are still those who want to criticize. Their answer to all of the alleged shortcomings is always more money and more resources. It doesn't seem to be a happenstance that the rhetoric grows louder as we approach November.

Listen to what no less an authority than Sonny Montgomery, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee has to say about that. I quote:

"If someone were to ask me to identify the most serious problems facing veterans today it would not be expanded or improved health care resources, it would not be the increase in the aging veteran population and its health care requirements, it would not be the solvency of the Home Loan Program.

"In fact, it would not have anything at all to do with the VA and the programs it administers. The most serious problem facing veterans today is identity. There are generations coming along that have little or no idea who a veteran really is or what he or she has done that deserves special entitlements and federal programs, in fact, many couldn't care less.

"Veterans organizations and the individuals they represent cannot be content to sit back, wait on the attacks on veterans' programs and then become defensive. You must lead the way. Every Chapter and Post and Department and Office of every organization is going to have to reach out to the community and say, 'We are here, let's get together.'

"Never miss an opportunity to remind America of who you are. Deliver your message with determination and pride. After all, it's a right you, above all others, have earned, and it could very well be the life blood of your future."

Now, in my judgment, Sonny Montgomery is right on the money. We must take our message to the American people, a positive and forceful message. If we allow ourselves to become nothing more than passive, reactive targets, the critics will be sniping at us all day long.

But I would urge The American Legion, responsible organization that it is, to support those programs that will benefit the nation as a whole, and not focus on narrow issues that will erode public confidence and lead to criticism and the ultimate detriment of the system.

It is absolutely vital that defense and the VA, intricately involved as they are, have public support, Congressional support, and the support of the incumbent Administration in order to be allocated the resources needed for Mission Accomplishment.

We currently enjoy the backing of all three of these critical elements. The philosophy of the nation's leadership is vital. In that regard, you know that Vice-President Bush, a bona fide war hero with a highly distinguished record, keeps current with veterans issues by frequent meetings with me and on some occasions with representatives of your organization here. He is a true friend to veterans and understands their needs.

President Reagan's advocacy for veterans is Legion, of course, and it's probably best manifest in his announced support of the initiative to elevate the VA from agency to cabinet level.

This initiative has been under consideration for over 35 years, but Ronald Reagan is the first President to have personally embraced the idea. This was clearly the critical catalyst leading to its passage by the Senate.

As you know, but Houses of Congress have passed their version of this legislation, and the final outcome is awaiting Conference Committee deliberation, some of which may occur tomorrow. Hopefully, the President will have a bill to sign at some early date, and you should thank yourselves and you should thank your leadership for your very critical role in the influence and the passage of this because you have been listened to by many of the important elements in the Congress.

As you in the Legion are certainly aware, when you are talking about the Veterans Administration you are talking about literally hundreds of different programs in which you have a vested interest. We represent 240,000 dedicated people and a budget of $28 billion that we spend at the rate of $100 million every working day of the year in support of the 27,000,000 veteran constituencies that we have in this country.

Elevation to cabinet status, therefore, does not only mean appropriate recognition to those who ensure the nation's freedom but also reflects the impact that the VA has on so many different aspects of American life.

Our programs, our people and activities are woven throughout the fabric of our society. The American people know that the work we do benefits not only veterans but the entire nation. To ensure that that special magic continues it takes all of us working together.

The Legion has always played a tremendous role in the partnership for veterans and that role becomes even more critical for the future of Veterans Affairs. I ask that you continue your work, your advocacy and continue building on that legacy of cooperation for the good of America's veterans and for America as a whole. Together we can make it happen. God bless you and God bless our country.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, General, for taking the time to speak to us again this year. Your important work in the VA is of concern to all of us.

May I also introduce here with him is one that I have come to know this year. She does an outstanding job and a very difficult one out there in the vineyards. Joan Lamb Li-Ning. Thank you very much for being here with the General.

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PRESENTATION OF FOUNDERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: As we are all aware, the relentless march of time has thinned the ranks of the Society of American Legion Founders. It is especially saddening to me that one of the Founders had looked forward to this occasion with great anticipation, but is unable to be with us today. He is Fred Ellis, President of the Society.

Fred was a delegate to the Paris Caucus in 1919, and although he is now in a nursing home in Harligen, Texas, we can be assured that his fighting spirit is with us today.

It was that fighting spirit of the Veterans of World War I that led to their building a wartime veterans organization dedicated to service to God and Country.

They accomplished their task well. They have left their mark on American history.

Fred wrote remarks to be delivered to this convention. On his behalf, I would like to read them to you:

"Commander Comer, Distinguished Guests and Legionnaires, all:

"We of the Society of American Legion Founders greet you today. The Founders believe that Legion leadership has passed to sterling and worthy hands of a new generation highly qualified to continue to build on the heritage of the past.

"The American Legion was formed at a time when there was united thought for the best interest of the country, while the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines were abroad, the people at home fought equally to support those of us under arms.

"When The American Legion was organized, all levels of our national social and economic structure accepted the organization as necessary, and their support was nationwide.

"It was very common, in those days, after the St. Louis Caucus, to see everywhere a sign urging veterans to "Join The American Legion." Between May and December 1919 nearly 8,800 American Legion Posts were organized. It was the spirit at home and the spirit of our servicemen in France which made The American Legion possible. The formation of The American Legion came amid many forceful arguments. The leaders in those days were men with a vision, just as the leaders of today. When the final gavel fell the

Caucus was a united body ready to bring veterans together to continue to serve our fellow citizens and our country.

"The spirit of we servicemen of 1919 was right. We mandated that all ranks of service, Sailors and Marines, must thereafter meet on a common base with no distinctions as to rank or politics or religion; that it must be a civilian organization, and regardless of place and time of service, all veterans serving during the active war period in 1917 and 1918 should be eligible.

"The St. Louis Caucus in May 1919, cemented further the ideals established in March in Paris.

"The first National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November of 1919 completed the structure of the Legion which has maintained its solid foundation ever since.

So, in closing, may I say that it is evident that we older veterans cannot hope to visit annually with you too much longer. It has been soul-satisfying for me to come to these meetings in past years and to meet and know Legionnaires from every state in the Union.

"The Founders hope and pray that so long as this organization exists you younger veterans can and will find leaders with the ability, members with the loyalty, so there will be no end in the efforts to maintain the ideals so nobly conceived back in 1919. Thank you and God bless."

Here with us today along with Erle Cocke, Past National Commander, Honorary Member of the Founders, we have George Bentley from Minnesota, age 90.

I was so proud to visit with George back in Minnesota when he came around to see me on my visit. George would like to say a few brief remarks.

AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDER GEORGE W. BENTLEY, Minnesota: Thank you very much, Commander. I want to commend and thank all of the people that have made this Convention possible. It takes an awful lot of men and women and time and energy to put it on. I want to thank each and every one of the National Officers and all the Ladies and Members of The American Legion for all the time that you put in.

Now, there are only three of us Founders here today, really three of the original Founders, and, of course, we were all at the Paris Caucus, as you heard. Of course, we didn't know each other until more recent years. Out of possibly 475 that were at the Paris Caucus March the 15th to 17th, 1919, and possibly 2,000 at St. Louis, of a total of 2,500 men there are only 13 of us left in the U.S.A. today and three of us are here on this stage before you.

Again I want to thank you all and I want you to remember that time goes on and we travel along that long, long trail awinding and over the hill into that undiscovered country from which no traveler returns. We hope and pray there will always be the great American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, George. Over here on my left sitting in his wheelchair is Vahan Dukmejian from New York, age 97.

And from Texas the baby of the family, Claude Payne, age 89.

AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDER CLAUDE B. PAYNE, Texas: National Commander "Jake," all National Commanders, past and present, all Legionnaires, past and present and, of course, our Ladies in the Auxiliary, we 13 old doughboys, the last survivors of The American Legion Founders at the Paris and St. Louis Caucuses, we extend our hearty thanks to you for making our dreams come true in developing the largest veterans organization in the world. For God and Country we thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much.

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ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE VETERANS IN CANADA

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next guest represents our neighbors and allies to the north. He is a great friend of The American Legion, and we have honored that friendship by presenting him our prestigious International Amity Award.

A decorated World War II veteran, today he is busy as Vice-Chairman of the Family/Youth Justice Committee of the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Director of the Vancouver Homesharers Society, a group designed to help keep seniors in their homes, and an associate of National Advisory Council on Aging in Canada. He was recently elected Dominion President of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada. Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming George Campbell.

GEORGE T. CAMPBELL
Dominion President
Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

I salute the Convention. Mr. Commander, Honored Guests, Comrades in Arms, Ladies and Friends. Once again the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada is honored by your invitation to me to attend what in terms of numbers has to be the largest aggregation of veterans to meet regularly anywhere in the world. That says something about the feelings of the American ex-service personnel about their dedication to their comrades in arms and their concern for their country and the world around them.

Our two nations have been joined as allies in a number of major conflicts in this century, and looking back we must surely thank God that we survived them with our freedom undiminished and, and indeed, enhanced.

We have long known what a fragile thing liberty is and that we must be ever vigilant in protecting that element of freedom which is the cornerstone of our existence.

While we foreswear war because we are so familiar with its horrors we recognize that all segments of world society do not share our views and may seek to undermine our institution if we allow it to happen.

I would doubt that there is one among us who periodically does not grieve for the loss of the flower of our young manhood in war. In Canada we acknowledge that, and I quote:

"They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old, age shall not worry them nor the years condemn."

While this creates a beautiful and poignant mental image we realize that the plain simple fact is that these young heroes never got to taste life to its fullest but gave of themselves in sacrifice so that our cherished institutions of freedom and liberty would be maintained.

What we owe to our fallen comrades constitutes a debt that we can never repay. The one course we must vigorously pursue is to ensure that the memory of our gallant comrades in arms and their sacrifices will never be forgotten. We can sometimes detect in this day and age an ominous trend to downplay the contributions of our veterans and those who have gone in maintaining our freedom. This must be actively forestalled.

Every day one sees instances of the exercise of civil rights and freedom which were purchased at high costs, and those persons exercising those rights and freedoms seem to have little knowledge of the price that was paid. Sadly too many of them seem to care little as well.

These conflicts in which we were embroiled we thought hopefully would save the world for democracy as well as to destroy tyranny. While we must acknowledge that the second goal was not achieved, as witnessed by the terror in the world today, we can take some comfort from the fact that the first objective was achieved from the most part. Indeed, it is safe to say that the majority of the peoples of the world live under conditions of democracy, albeit, the degree of democracy in some quarters is less than we had hoped, but the world was saved and that democratic process was strengthened, and the best test of the value of our persistence may be viewed in the present democratic changes in both the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China.

The torch was thrown to us by the fallen in World War I and we carried it to victory then and again in the continued wars of 1939-1945 and Korea and for you, Vietnam.

I believe we can face our fallen comrades in the hereafter and say that we did not let them down but continued the fight for our democratic principles and were successful.

As to whether or not a better world has resulted since the end of hostilities is a moot point. Materially the advances in our society are pretty obvious, but has that materialism overridden our fundamental morality? Sometimes it seems as though it has.

But when as the people who have known the stress of war firsthand, we gather together again, as we are doing today, and through the process of rededicating ourselves to the service of our countries and to the remembrance of those of our brothers and sisters who died for our freedom, we assert that morality which has been a foundation stone of our character for centuries.

Every year in Canada on November the 11th, which is our Remembrance Day, we find fewer people who recognize the significance and the symbolism of the holiday, indeed, for many it is just another holiday. The true message of remembrance must be passed to the younger generation and it must be done in such a meaningful way that the concept is clear and becomes indelibly impressed. Only then can the averment, again, I quote, that:

"The going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them be properly realized."

My Fellow Canadians, visitors, among whom I include my wife Margaret, my right arm, Monty Barnett, the National Secretary-Treasurer of our organization and his wife, Emily, thank you for your many kindnesses jointly and severely to us during our visit in Louisville, and we would like to advise you that as a group we will be at home in Canada in 1990 when the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

PRESENTATION

DOMINION PRESIDENT CAMPBELL: In closing I have a presentation to make to Commander "Jake." It's a small token of the esteem in which you and he are held by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada. I should tell you that it is a pair of articles described as labels created by the first native residents of the Pacific Coast, one in the form of a fork for speering and the other in the form of a ladle for scooping up life's goodies. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, George, and as a fellow member of Anavicus of Canada and your Dominion Presidency, I thank you sincerely for your appearance here today, and I also express my gratitude for your kind gift, and since you express what it is it saves me time from opening it. Thank you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: As Members of The American Legion we belong to an organization with a proud history of providing service to all of our nation's veterans. This goal has always been to assure fair and equitable treatment of the men and women who served this great land of ours.

With us today is a gentleman who shares this same philosophy. He cares for veterans of Taiwan and serves as the Chairman, Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen of that country.

During his long and honorable military career he has served as Superintendent of the Army Academy, Commanding General Field Army, Commanding General, Kinmen Defense Command and Director General, Political Warfare Department.

When I traveled through the Far East he was a gracious host to all who traveled with me and for that I am especially thankful. Please welcome to our 70th National Convention a man that I hold a lot of respect for. He was such a gracious host when we visited Taiwan. General Hsu Li-Nung of Taiwan. General.

GENERAL HSU LI-NUNG

Vocational Assistance Commission
for Retired Servicemen
Republic of China

. . . Through an interpreter, General Hsu Li-Nung delivered the following message:

"Commander Comer, Distinguished Guests and Delegates to the Convention. Thank you for the warm welcome. On behalf of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen and Veterans of the Republic of China, I bring you greetings and a salutation on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 1988 National Convention of The American Legion being held here in the home of the Kentucky Derby, Louisville, Kentucky.

"In order to save time in translation I have requested Mr. Charles Kahn to present my speech in English.

"The Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen has developed a close and friendly relationship with The American Legion over the past decade. Earlier this year we were most fortunate to have the honor of receiving National Commander Comer during his visit to Taiwan where he was able to tour our families' homes, hospitals and economic establishments. We hope that as a result of Commander Comer's visit The American Legion and the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen will grow ever closer in the cooperative relationship that has been developed.

"It is because The American Legion's policies and activities are dedicated to the preservation of peace and enhancement of human rights that The American Legion is so well known and respected throughout the world, especially among the nations of the Pacific rim.

"The American Legion and the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen have the same objectives and common ideals and the people of our two countries have developed a close and cordial partnership.

As we hasten toward the next decade of the century it is reassuring to note that The American Legion stands at the forefront of freedom and democracy while continuing to advocate the virtues of justice, freedom, patriotism and the brotherhood of all nations.

"The American Legion is not only the largest veterans organization but is also one of the largest anti-communism organizations in the world. Furthermore, The American Legion has had an unblemished record in support of a strong free world defense posture. You have been the spokesman for those who believe that America must maintain superior forces to offset the numerical strength of the communists in Asia.

"Currently we are living in a world of constant political change. In the Far East we have seen what would appear to be major policy shifts, both internally and externally, on the part of the two communist giants, the Soviet Union and the Chinas communist regime. On the surface both communist powers appear to be adopting a more peaceable and open set party policies. If this is, in fact, to be the case, the new policies could bring an extended period of world peace. Unfortunately, communist party politics have always changed radically overnight. Even now Mr. Gorbachev's policies are opposed by certain groups within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. What the next current policies will be we can only make an educated guess, consequently, we must be especially watchful that we are not caught in a difficult position when policies change again.

"This is especially true with regard to the Chinese Communists. Although their current partyline is one of peace and friendship toward Taiwan, earlier this year the communists staged one of the largest military exercises in their history off Taiwan Island. Their exercise was in reality the marked invasion of Taiwan. Video tape recordings of the exercise showed an extensive cooperation of the Chinese Communist Party's Army, Navy, and the Air Force, and CBS landings were conducted backed by air attacks and ship-to-ship missile firings.

"The military firing training conducted this year clearly shows that the Chinese Communists have never ruled out the use of force against Taiwan in order to bring Taiwan under communist rule.

"As you know, the Chinese Communists have been attempting to modernize their armed forces with U.S. technology. Many nations in the Far East are concerned that once Mainland China has obtained modernization of their weapons from the West, the weapons will not be aimed at the Soviet Union but rather at the free nations of Asia.

"Although the Republic of China is now able to manufacture many of our own weapons we are still dependent on access to the United States Military Supply system for many items, including heavy weapons, electronics, parts and high technology data packages for the production of equipment in Taiwan. This is particularly true with regard to missiles, ships and aircraft. Fortunately the security provisions and the laws in Taiwan's relationship with the United States, on the part of the United States they will make available to the Republic of China articles and defense services in such quantities that may be necessary to enable the Republic of China to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.

"During your convention you will be considering many important foreign policies and national defense matters which would affect many future generations. As always, I am sure that in your deliberations you will make wise decisions after careful study.

"In closing, I extend to you our most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a most successful Convention. Thank you very much."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank National Commander Comer and Chairman Hsu would like to do a little presentation on behalf of the President of the Republic of China.

"I have the honor to read a Citation Declaration Certificate. Mr. John P. Comer, National Commander, The American Legion, has distinguished himself by offering outstanding contributions to the promotion of the friendly relations between the people of the United States of America and the Republic of China and to the enhancement of the ties and cooperation between the veterans of our two countries. In appreciation for his meritorious service, National Commander Comer is presented accordingly, under Item 11 of our Recognition of the Order of the Cloud and Banner by the Government of the Republic of China. This is signed by the President, Premiere and Minister.

"On behalf of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Chairman Hsu would like to present this plaque to the National Commander, and I have the honor to read the inscription here. Presented to Mr. John P. Comer, National Commander of The American Legion, in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to the enhancement of friendship and cooperation between The American Legion and veterans, by General Hsu Li-Nung, Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China, September 6, 1988."

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, General, and for the cooperation when we were visiting your country. Let me say to Charles the interpreter, when you travel to Taiwan, this is the fellow that meets you at the airport, takes care of your every need, sends home our gifts. Charles, we tremendously appreciate your association with us.

I only want to know one thing, General, does this make me a General, because everybody in the back seems to be Generals. But, we enjoyed their cooperation. They are wonderful people.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next guest represents another great veterans organization in Canada. I had the privilege of attending their convention this year in Ottawa. The spirit of cooperation was great and I certainly enjoyed the warm welcome I received.

A life member of The Royal Canadian Legion, our guest became a member in 1947 and has held leadership positions at all levels including his current position as Dominion Vice President.

He served in The Royal Canadian Navy in World War II. Please give a warm welcome to the Vice President of The Royal Canadian Legion, Mr. Bill Smith.

J.W. (BILL) SMITH
Executive Vice President, The Royal Canadian Legion

Comrade "Jake" and Distinguished Legionnaires on the floor. These other people are guests like myself but you are the distinguished Legionnaires of this Convention.

I am honored as Executive Vice President of The Royal Canadian Legion to be with you on your 70th Annual National Convention. On behalf of our President, Gaston Garceau and my fellow officers and the over 600,000 members of The Royal Canadian Legion, I bring you greetings and best wishes for a successful Convention.

My American neighbors, to be with you as a guest and share your hospitalities this week is a pleasure. It is a pleasure for both Ray and myself, not only because we are veterans of war but also because of our great respect for those who we have walked behind during the good and bad years.

You with your many states and we with our provinces and territories are unique in this world with our thinking sameness. Between our two countries of North America lies an unguarded border. You can't touch it or see it, nevertheless it is there keeping everything tightly in place as governments and homelands.

We have definitely different ways of running our respective countries yet we respect each other's laws. There is a common bond shared by us. It is out there in our vast tracts of land and the places we have patterned and built ourselves, this wonderful heritage. A strong bond which other countries cannot understand and never will, and one of which they are very envious of.

When you visit a foreign country, especially if you are traveling with a tour or a group, to whom do you relate most? To what folks on the tour? It is invariably American-Canadian and Canadian-American. This drawing together especially was experienced by us also in World War I and World War II and Korea. We were, as the older gentleman introduced earlier said, buddies and pals, as their beautiful old song goes. This very unique relationship we must cherish and nurture and hold fast to it as you go to your families. It must start early in life, the teaching of our children, our families and yourself, for I believe we badly need each other in this small corner of the world which is growing smaller day by day and at an alarming and frightening rate.

Outsiders must feel frustrated when coming apart against that strong wall of togetherness that we have built.

The past few days I have been listening and reading about and talking to many veterans from all parts of this great nation, learning of your many programs and achievements as an organization.

One such and that which is first admired is your area of patriotism, of God and family.

Soon in our country, we will be having celebrations of remembrance, but with your celebrations on your remembrances, and ours in the cities and towns from Alaska right through to our southern border, from coast to coast, we lay wreaths and pay homage to our fallen.

Now many people pass the centipedes day by day not even noting them, at least in this busy world, every day, not noticing or hearing the birds that sing, or smell the flowers around them. To many, they are just more dirt and stone.

But we who are veterans and who have served, to us they mean, a centipede means just more than that, they stand for life that was.

No matter where one of you happened to be standing before, it transforms you to a field of battle and your comrades. So to we who serve, they are not just mortar and stone, they are a constant reminder of life that was.

So day to day, just stop, look around you, and think of all that you would have missed if it had not been for them.

The past 42 years have been good to us of the second war era. We have had the privilege to come home, raise our families, see our grandchildren come into the world. And your Commander certainly demonstrates that very well today.

We must ever strive to see that we never experience the horrors of war. As Americans and Canadian veterans, we can make sure that their sacrifice was not in vain.

I say a comrade is someone with whom one can think aloud. I feel you are my comrades, and above all, no matter what I have said, I want to end this with these sincere words, which have become my motto. And I want you to listen to it:

> "We rack our brains a lot these days with charts, plans and schemes,
> to make our Legions a better place, if only in our dreams.
>
> We deliberately look for that worldwide peace of joys that made men free,
> Of universal comradeship and hands across the sea.

But while we plan this comradeship to which we all aspire,
too little do we realize that it's so simple to acquire.

To make our Legions better, here is all you really have to do,
you start to be a comrade to that comrade sitting next to you."

And may the Blessed One bless you all. Thank you, Comrades.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Bill, for your kind words, and our long association across the waters, and across the miles.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: During my year as National Commander I have traveled extensively, both in the United States and abroad. One such trip took me to Korea where I had the pleasure of meeting the President of the Korean Veterans Association. His welcome was warm when I was in his country, and for that I am grateful.

South Korea is a trusted ally, and world attention is focused on that country with the upcoming Olympics. Their veterans have worked for years to maintain and promote friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

The leader of that organization spent 33 years in the Korean Army serving his country and retired in 1983 as a General.

He has been traveling with a gentleman that we have come to respect as an interpreter, who has come to your Convention for many years, and he has been a good friend of many of you.

So please join with me in welcoming President Joon-Yeol So, retired President, the Korean Veterans Association.

GENERAL SO, JOON-YEOL
Retired President
The Korean Veterans Association

. . . Through an interpreter, General So, Joon-Yeol delivered the following message:

"National Commander Comer, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to have been invited to attend your 70th Annual National Convention. For myself, and on behalf of all members of the Korean Veterans Association, I wish to express our deep appreciation for your continuous promotion of the traditionally amicable ties existing between our two Republics, and so convey our warm greetings and friendship.

"Dear Legionnaires, during the last five to six years, the Soviet Union, in accordance with its new policy towards the Pacific, has not only beefed up its military muscle in this area but enormously increased military aid to its faithful ally, 'North Korea'. Encouraged by the Soviet schemers, Communist North Korea has recently introduced hi-tech weapon systems including MIG-29 Fighter-Bombers and SA-5 Anti-aircraft missiles, formidably strengthening their awsome military power.

"In recent months, the tension on the Korean peninsula has been heightened by the North's reckless rejection of the South's sincere proposals for national reconciliation.

"In addition, North Korea perpetuated a horrendous barbarity by their massacre of 115 innocent civilians aboard a Korean airliner last November. Even more shocking was the revelation of the self-confessed lady-like North Korean bomber, Kim Hyun-hee, that she had carried out the atrocious act on the direct order of Kim Jung-il, the son and heir-apparent of North Korean dictator, Kim Il-sung.

"Yet, under these trying circumstances, the Republic of Korea attained a peaceful transfer of power through direct presidential election and laid the cornerstone for a modern parliamentary democracy through a general election. Now the Korean people, with unprecedented harmony and determination, are exerting tremendous effort to ensure the success of the upcomig Seoul Olympics this September.

"Dear Friends, we, of the KVA deeply appreciate the strong support for the security of Korea consistently given by The American Legion and take great pride in our traditional friendship. I hope for your continued cooperation in furthering the mutual interests and security of our two nations. In closing, I sincerely wish your Convention will prove a successful and rewarding one.

"Thank you."

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much. It is just such a great honor to have you here in our country. And the way in which you serve us in Korea and the friendship you have in a country where our troops of the Second Division are still there fighting that war, still there on the DMZ, with all of your troops, fighting communism, and never letting the American people forget the necessity to continue our challenges for each other.

GENERAL HSU: (Through an interpreter) "In token of our appreciation, this plaque is presented to Mr. John P. 'Jake' Comer, National Commander, National Commander, 1987-88, American Legion, in grateful recognition of his dedicated contributions to the support of national security, Republic of Korea, and to promote friendly relations between the two organizations. 6 September, 1988, Louisville, Kentucky, signed Hsu, Joon-Yeol So, General Retired, President, the Korean Veterans Association."

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Major, for reading that, and to the General, for making this presentation.

When I was in Korea, I was presented my medal there, and I 've already been made a General in Korea. So this little Airman First Class has come a long way. Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I will call upon Dominic DiFrancesco of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the National Convention Committee for Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, Membership, for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION III (MEMBERSHIP)

Dominic DiFrancesco (PA) Chairman

The Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs Section III (Membership), convened at 9:00 A.M., September 4, 1988, in the Commonwealth Convention Center, Room 112, Lower Level, Louisville, Kentucky.

The 44 present, elected Dominic D. DiFrancesco (PA) Chairman and Gary L. Walling (IL) Secretary of the Committee.

Three resolutions were assigned to this Committee for consideration. The disposition of which are as follows:

Referred

It is recommended that the following resolution be referred for further study: Membership and Post Activity Committee.

Res No. 72 (OH) **"Post Roster Membership Information**

Res No. 57 (NC) **"Honorary Life Membership**

Approved

It is recommended that the following resolution be approved:

Res No. 234 (MN) **"Requests Creation of a 'Special' Certificate for 70 Years of Continuous Membership"**

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, That a special certificate be prepared similar to the previously issued Golden Certificate to recognize Legionnaires with 70 years of continuous membership in The American Legion.

Reports were presented on current activity and future strategies for the following topics: DMS, Traditional Membership Acquisition and Retention, New Post Development, Awards and Incentives, and Education and Training.

The 1988 membership to date is 2,836,995 which represents an increase of 5,760 over final 1987 membership.

1989 membership stands at 918,455. Thirty-four Departments met or exceeded this target.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are only 163,000 members away from our goal of 3,000,000 members.

The 1988-89 year, we can do it, and we will do it, however, it is going to be a team effort. And we ask that you all join the team to reach this goal of 3,000,000.

I thank you all, and God bless you.

As a Delegate from Pennsylvania, I move for the adoption of this Report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously, and the Report was adopted.

* * *

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: At this time, I would like to call on each of you able Vice-Commanders to assist me with the Membership Award Presentations

First, Joe Frank of Missouri, will you come to the lectern.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JOE FRANK, Missouri: Ladies and Gentlemen, the time has come to honor those Legionnaires who have achieved record numbers in their membership activities this year.

It is through their efforts that The American Legion has achieved new milestones in membership this year. We are larger now than we have been in 34 years. Our membership is the driving force that makes us the greatest veterans organization in America because our membership is our strength.

Each winner this year will receive a special award plaque and at this time it is my pleasure to announce the National Recruiter of the Year.

This category is for the individual Legionnaire who was certified through the Department as having signed up the most new members for the current membership year as of The American Legion birthday, March 17.

In addition to an expense-paid trip to this National Convention, the Recruiter of the Year and spouse receives a seven-day Caribbean cruise.

The National Membership Recruiter of the Year is Donald E. Lindberg of Post 29 in Arizona.

We are recognizing seven Department Commanders for leading their Department to achieve a 100% goal by March 31, 1988. The seven are:

Thomas Wootten of Delaware; Sotero Garcia of District of Columbia; Earl B. Colby, Jr. of Maine; Richard J. Cherry of Ohio; Frank H. Nolan of Mexico; Dan McDonald of Panama Canal; and William H. Sener of the Philippines.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER REED, Arizona: Our next category of membership awards goes to the Commanders of the Departments who achieved 100% of their goal by May 2, 1988. Fourteen Departments qualified for that honor. Their Commanders are:

Martha "Marty" McQuaine of Arkansas; Mike Canales of California; Raymond R. Bigelow of the District of Columbia; Thomas Wootten of Delaware; Ronald A. Sailor of Maine; Richard J. Cherry of Ohio; Dan McDonald of Panama Canal; William H. Sener of the Philippines; Wayne B. Richey of South Carolina; Russel D. Testerman of South Dakota; Wayne McLean of Vermont; J. Carl Durham of West Virginia; and Michael J. Kelly of Mexico.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CABRAL, Connecticut: It is always a special thrill at National Convention to see honored those leaders of Departments who achieved all time highs in membership. I am proud to present to you the 10 Department leaders who saw their efforts move membership to thrilling heights in the past 12 months. They are:

Robert J. Proctor of Florida; R. Lee Fisher of Maryland; James J. Kirk of Arizona; Lloyd M. Ricker of Minnesota; Wayne McLean of Vermont; Louis F. Milinazzo of New Hampshire; Don L. Circ of Nevada; Thomas Wootten of Delaware; Earl B. Colby, Jr. of Maine, and Larry Bartlett of Indiana.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PHIFER, Virginia: Let's give them a warm round of applause for their accomplishments.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: All of you coming into this hallway today, and for the past two days as you came to the meetings have stopped to admire the beautiful Chrysler New Yorker Landau in the main lobby of this building. Thanks to the leaders of Chrysler Corporation, one member of our Gold Brigade will soon be driving a car much like the one in the lobby.

At this time I want to call the winner of the car to our stage for a presentation.

Now this was drawn at a membership meeting in Indianapolis in front of all the Delegates from the various states at this meeting.

But for important reasons that person had to be here, but I took the winner's name and I sealed it in an envelope. The only three people who knew the winner at the time were Robert Spanogle, the National Membership Chairman, Director, Internal Affairs Chairman and myself.

Mr. Adjutant, the envelope, please.

I always wanted to say that, you know.

This will certify this as having been drawn on 8-30-88 by Robert Spanogle, and the winner of the new car from Fairborn, Ohio is George Arturo, of Post 526, with 60 Members.

Will the Sergeant of Arms escort George to this rostrum.

Will Dick Cherry also come, please.

The man just did not know. The secret was kept. And I want to thank and congratulate all of you for allowing us to do it in this way.

What I would like to present to you now are just a few thanks and I'm sure that he wants to say these, the winner of the new automobile. And that is what membership is all about. George.

GEORGE ARTURO, POST 526, FAIRBORN, OHIO: I just want to say thanks to the people that helped me, and gave me the guidance. I don't know what to say.

I was told I was going to get a certificate.

Thank you, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: He is the Post Commander of the Post of Jerry Moore, the new Department Commander from Ohio. Jerry, I know how pleased you were as Membership Chairman.

Then Dick Cherry, I am not going to give him the microphone, but isn't that great?

I made two or three visits into Ohio, and I know what I'm doing. But Dick Cherry is one of the closest friends that I've made this year. He is just a great, great guy, and I'm so pleased that his Department has been selected.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The American Legion has been concerned for many years about the unrest in Central America. I have visited the area in the past year as your representative. You know my beliefs from firsthand visits. Our organization's concerns have not diminished.

It is my distinct pleasure now to introduce you to a man who is responsible for all U.S. Military activities in Latin America. His military career has groomed him well for this position, dividing his service between infantry assignments and duties associated with Latin America. He has studied this region of the world since the early '60s and has directed Latin America studies for the United States Army War College.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commander in Chief of the United States Southern Command, General Fred Woerner.

GENERAL FREDERICK F. WOERNER
Commander in Chief
United States Army
U.S. Southern Command

Thank you, Jake. Thank you very much for this opportunity to address the distinguished American Legion.

I just came from addressing, a few minutes ago, the Auxiliary, to which they presented me with this medal. Never have I felt that I earned a medal more appropriately.

I, in traveling from my room on the 21st floor down to the third floor where the speech was, felt my body in danger on those elevators.

I want to talk to you for a few minutes allotted to me about how our interests within this hemisphere in Central America and solicit your support, your continued support with the new administration, as I have experienced with the current administration.

To do this, I would like to take a look at what our interests are in Latin America.

Secondly, the environment which challenges those interests, and the threat, and then for specific request of you, in your communications and dialogue with our political leadership.

Let me try and capture the essence of what I see to be our interests within the hemisphere.

First of all, the economic side, it is very easy to quantify that we will still continue to need the strategic raw materials coming from the Latin American nations to sustain our industrial base.

Latin American nations number among the world's top 12 producers in such materials as antimony, bauxite, copper, magnesia, silver, tin, peat; that we would find that 40% of our oil comes from not the Middle East, but from Latin America. Similarly, 40% of our iron ore, and even 96% of aluminum.

As these are important, these strategic raw materials, so also are the market for our finished products.

We export $33 billion a year to Latin America, that is 30% of our foreign trade. We find that Venezuela and Brazil are among our top trading 12 partners, and Mexico is only exceeded by Japan and Canada.

And all this is on a current population base of 378,000,000 and will grow to 548,000,000 by the turn of the century.

Similarly, in economic investment opportunities, 72% of our earned world investments are found in Latin America, and complimenting these economic investments and interest, we have social interests.

Let me just mention two. They are constantly on the front pages of our newspapers:

First, illegal immigration.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service last year on the southern frontier made 1.8 million arrests. No one knows how many arrests they did not make.

The Mexican work force is 27 million to grow to 43 million by the turn of the century, not counting women.

This will require 1 million new jobs a year, an impossibility for Mexico, and thus the continued ever increasing pressure on our southern flank exacerbated by the lack of stability increase within Central America, and the Northern States of South America.

The United States is the only country in the world that attributes over 50% of its population growth to illegal immigration.

If there are arbitrarily 500 of you in the audience, 20 of you are illegal immigrants in the United States, on a national average.

Now I don't know what all of this means in terms of pressures social, welfare and social services and things like that. But I am very much concerned, when we find 1 out of 24 inhabitants in this country is living outside of the law, in fear of the law, to a degree unprotected by the law. And what is the impact on the social fabric of the United States, a law-abiding, law-respecting nation, when a condition like that exists.

A second much more pressing social problem that ties us to the hemisphere is that of illegal drugs. We are in the Guinness Book of Records because we consume 60% of the world's production of drugs.

In all that consumption, 85% of it comes from Latin America; 100% of the cocaine, three-quarters of the marijuana, and even now, a third of the heroin.

In the United States, we not only have 20 million users, regular users of marijuana, but we also have 6 million users of cocaine, and a third of a million heroin addicts. The social significance is obvious, and it links us with the Latin American nations to ourself, who are not only producers, but ever increasingly, consumers of illegal drugs.

As we have economic and social interest, so also do we have very real military interests that would be readily understood in this audience.

We are interested in access to bases, and similarly, the denial of bases to those hostile to our interests.

It is hard to accept the fact that at this very moment the Soviet Union and the United States of America are on a par with forward deployed armed forces; that the Soviet Union ever increases its naval presence in the Caribbean basin; that the Soviet Union has its largest most modern, most sophisticated intelligence-gathering apparatus located in La Rioja, Cuba Bay, and the Soviet Union has control over more airfields south of the Rio Grande than does the United States.

We have one, and we will only have that one for 12 more years in Panama.

We have interest in the freedom of the seas. Forty percent of our foreign trade transits the Caribbean and South Atlantic. Fifty percent of our strategic mineral import, 55% of our oil, and 60% of our NATO reinforcements moves through the Caribbean sea lanes.

Now one can say that is not really relevant—Caribbean, tourism, beaches, fishing, and yet, reading of World War II, and many of you will remember, during the fist eight months an average of three enemy submarines sunk 322 allied ships on those very sea lanes.

We are also interested in the principle of the economy of force. Think for a moment what it would mean to our worldwide military commitment and posture if we were required to militarily secure 1,952 miles of border with Mexico, to say nothing of the associated sea approaches, both Atlantic and Pacific.

Now these interests, I would argue, are seriously challenged.

To dramatize that point, I would ask you to recall what brought us closer to Armageddon, a decade of involvement in Vietnam or a week of missile crisis in Cuba.

These interests are under serious challenge on many fronts. And the Soviet Union, the Eastern block will exploit those multi-valuable capabilities.

We tend to think of the threat exclusively on East-West access, as we analyze threat in other regions of the world.

But that is not sufficient in the Western Hemisphere. We must also consider the threat on a north-south access, and an access as characterized by the developed nations of the United States and the other undeveloped nations of Latin America.

As I look to the south, I find that the environment is dichotomous. We have on one hand a positive growth of democracy. I used to count the democracies on one hand.

In the last 10 years, nine countries of the 20 that I overwatch have moved from military dictatorships to civilian governments, democratically elected. Unfortunately, as impressive as that is, and we can take some pride in helping make that happen, that progressive, political progress has not been accompanied by socioeconomic progress, and Latin America is suffering under conditions that are decreasing their standard of living, at levels below that which they enjoyed at the turn of the decade.

A population growth that is doubling, doubling every 20 years, an unemployment rate that runs between 40 and 50% in Central America, a population of El Salvador, that has 55% under the age of 15, they face the international age of productivity; a $410 billion deficit. What does that mean?

That means that if we were able to help Brazil amortize its $100 plus billion foreign debt, we would produce each year in the United States 350,000 new jobs. That is the relationship that we have with the economic and social well-being of our neighbors to the south.

We cringe, we of the United States cringe at the thought of two digit inflation, 10, 11, 12%. Latin American nations, and I am including Chile, which had 6% or so last year, the Latin American nations averaged last year 187% inflation rate.

Their growth rate, 2.6%, the lowest since 1983.

These social factors or economic factors are accompanied by social indices which are alarming. Dietary deficiency, here we are sharing a hemisphere with a people in which we have a historic and cultural identity, a good bit of which is closer to us at this very moment. My home in Panama is closer here than my children are in California.

And yet, we have conditions in which the major contributor to infant and child mortality in the 20th Century is diarrhea.

Illiteracy, 60% in Guatemala, and one could go on making the point. Well, these conditions can provide very fertile ground for exploitation by the Soviet Union, Eastern block, not for the purpose of ameliorating them, but to wage their conflict with the United States in another dimension.

We find in future years that the Soviet Union will aggressively compliment its current support of revolutionary insurgent activities in the region with a plethora of legal activities, political, economic and cultural. Take one example. The Soviet Union this year is awarding 10,000 scholarships to Latin American youth. I'm not counting the rest of the Eastern block nor Cuba. Ten thousand Soviet scholarships being given.

Those interests within that environment are being seriously challenged on multi-dimensional fronts, along with the Soviet Union we will find that acting in their behalf, Cuba and Nicaragua are slightly committed, regardless of the Arias Peace Plan to the exporter revolution, targeting the newly emerging democracies to their north, El Salvador, Honduras, and after that, most certainly would be Guatemala.

We find that our interests are not only challenged by the left, but also by the persistent albeit ever-diminishing dictatorships of the right, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, and others. In a military dimension, the challenge is very easy to quantify.

I have already mentioned the Soviet land, naval, intelligence presence, but there is a very active insurgency going on just to our south.

Twenty-five different gorilla forces at various levels of development and 9 of the 20 mainland countries in Central and South America. These are aided and abetted by the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union has more military representation advisors in this hemisphere than does the United States. The Soviet Union not only has more advisors in Central and South America and the Caribbean basin than does the United States. They have 19 times more. They have more advisors in Peru than I have in all of South America.

There are 2,500 advisors in Cuba, and much less numbers in Nicaragua. But what of the others, not Soviets. There are 2,800 Cuban advisors in Nicaragua, and one could go on and on with the numbers.

The point being, that our interests are seriously challenged, and unless we address those interests, both on that north-south access, it has been a platform element of this magnificent organization in past years, and additionally address it on the east-west access, we will not win. We will not secure our national interests.

I ask your support with the new administration, regardless of the party, to address our interests within this hemisphere, and specifically our issues that demand that the administration immediately upon taking office must be prepared to address.

And you can help, you can help as individuals, as members of this Legion, and as civic leaders in your hometown communities.

The first thing we must do is assist our Latin American neighbors in ameliorating the previous social and economic conditions that provide very fertile grounds for communist-inspired insurgency.

Secondly, having not succeeded in protecting what was a very good Central American policy and our support for the contras as one-half of our strategy, we must demand of the new administration a viable alternative strategy that will finally bring first democracy, and then out of democracy, peace to the Central American region.

Thirdly, we must come up with a policy that will restore democracy to Panama and protect our many, many interests there.

And lastly, we must commit ourselves under the leadership of the new administration, a national commitment to address this perhaps most insidious of enemies that we have ever faced, drugs.

And unless we do so, I can absolutely guarantee you, we will continue to lose the war as we are now losing it and be ever increasingly weakened as a result.

On these issues, helping Latin America address its very serious socioeconomic problems, a new policy for Central America, a restoration of democracy in Panama, and a national war on drugs, I ask the continued support of The American Legion.

Gentlemen, it has been a real honor for me to appear before you, and I look forward to the camaraderie for the remainder of my stay here. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now I would like to call on National Adjutant Spanogle for an announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: The Western States Caucus will be held in this Convention Hall at the recess of the Wednesday session of this 70th annual convention.

There was an error in the announcement about seating for the special session tonight in honor of President Ronald Wilson Reagan. We will be seated by Delegate, Alternate, Guest and Special Guest passes.

There will be a handicapped entrance for tonight's session and it is located at 4th and Jefferson Street and all people who are in a wheelchair should use that entrance.

I would ask at the recess, because of security measures incumbent with the President's special visit to The American Legion that we clear this hall as quickly as possible, and you will assist The American Legion and the President if you do so.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Delegates and Alternates, a very important message after what you have just heard. I am asking you as a personal favor, as I have never asked anything before. We are honored to have the President with us this evening as no other Convention has been so honored, and I would expect you all to be here. I am urging you to ask each and every one of your Delegates and Alternates and Guests and Ladies of the Auxiliary, please. I hope to fill this hall to show our support for the President that took the time to be here tonight with us. As a personal favor I would hope that would happen.

The shuttles will be in operation from here back to the hotel for the Commander's Testimonial in due time.

Now, the Wednesday session for tomorrow morning will be called for 8:45 A.M., and we will begin with the Report of the Credentials and Internal Affairs Section II Committee which we did not get to this afternoon.

All stand and join me in a hand salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I call this Convention in recess until this evening at 6:45 P.M.

. . . At 2:55 P.M., the Convention recessed, to reconvene Tuesday evening, September 6, 1988, at 6:45 P.M.

SPECIAL SESSION
TUESDAY EVENING—
SEPTEMBER 6, 1988
ADDRESS BY THE
PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES

. . . Following the afternoon recess, the Convention reconvened for a special address by the Honorable Ronald W. Reagan, President of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States will be with us shortly. He comes to address us as he travels from the Western White House in California to Washington, D.C.

I believe this will be his last stop to speak to The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, as our President and Commander-In-Chief, and he does us a special honor by coming to Louisville.

Our President has been a true friend to the veterans of this nation. So we await his arrival, and I would like for you to join me in reflecting on some of the accomplishments of the past eight years by watching a video production that includes footage sure to bring tears to your eyes and fill your hearts with pride.

Ladies and Gentlemen. The Reagan Years.

. . . At this time a video presentation, "The Reagan Years" was viewed by the Delegation while waiting on the President of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of the United States.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Legionnaires, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, the Forty and Eight, the Twenty and Four, Special Guests.

As many of you know, this evening's session is very unusual for The American Legion.

It is clear that some of us are present in black tie for our Convention banquet which will begin when this session ends. Our guest tonight has just arrived, and will be leaving at the conclusion of his speech.

It is a privilege for me for the second time to introduce our guest. This is the seventh time our Commander-In-Chief has addressed The American Legion in Convention or during the Washington Conference. Two other times, during his term of office, he has taken time to send special video tape messages when his travel schedule would not permit him to be with us.

And in 1987, he invited leaders of the Legion to a private meeting at the Executive Office Building during our Washington Conference.

He is a member of the Pacific Palisades Post 283 of the Department of California.

I present to you with pride and admiration, our Commander-In-Chief, the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

THE HONORABLE RONALD W. REAGAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Thank you very much, Commander Comer, and a special thank you to my friend Tom Turnage.

Before I get started, let me say a word of thanks to you, Commander. In the last few years, we have fought with too little success, I am sorry to say, in our promise to honor a moral obligation, as well as an obligation to the peace and freedom of our children in this hemisphere, and give strong and consistent aid to the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua.

Earlier this year, the majority in Congress turned a deaf ear to our pleas, and to those in Central America who hunger for the freedoms we in the United States take for granted. We hope that with your help we might still convince this Congress to do what is right.

But if not, it will be in spite of the day and night work of your Commander and of many Legion Members. The leadership of the Legion and your Commander in our fight against the odds may be less heralded in history than the service so many of you have given on America's fields of battle. But on it, too, hangs the future of our beloved land.

And so, if you will permit me, now, before I get going on my talk as President and Commander-In-Chief, and for the Nation, I salute you.

. . . Standing applause, as the President saluted Commander Comer and the Delegation.

Legionnaires, Friends, it is with some nostalgia that I come to you today. We have met so many times during the years of my Presidency. We have worked so long and hard together. Now we are nearing the end, and this is my last appearance as President before you. I won't say last appearance, period. After all, once I am out of office, I will have some time on my hands, and perhaps maybe you might want me back.

But today, as I look back on all the battles we have fought together, and all the victories we won, and all we have done for the great and glorious land we love, I can't help feeling that the battle isn't over. Indeed, that the details of the debate have hardly changed in these eight years.

Yes, eight years ago, I appeared before you to outline the disaster that had befallen our Armed Forces and the danger this posed to peace throughout the world. I have spoken often in the years since of the ships that couldn't sail, and planes that couldn't fly for lack of trained mechanics and spare parts, but as I told you eight years ago, such waste was only part of that national calamity.

We had an Administration in Washington that, as one of its first acts in office, cancelled or delayed a large part of the modernization of our strategic forces. The B-1 bomber, the Minuteman III and MX missiles, the Trident submarine and Trident I and II missiles, the entire Navy—all to a greater or lesser degree became casualties of its knife.

So, too, did the very heart of our Armed Forces, our men and women in uniform and their families. As pay failed to keep pace with inflation, and every signal came from Washington that too many of those in authority held in contempt those who defended the Nation and the peace, re-enlistment rates plummeted and it became harder and harder to sign up good recruits.

Again and again, around the world, our predecessors had shown not the slightest grasp of the fundamentals of strategy and national interest. They faced challenges as sensitive as those any post-war administration has faced in Africa, Afghanistan, and Central America.

Again and again, they responded with remarkable passivity. And in Europe, the Alliance, our most vital strategic relationship, was shaken to its very foundations by their unbelievable indecision on weapons modernizations. And it even came to be said that the

Soviets longed for strong, consistent leadership in the United States, capable of making a deal and sticking to it.

Well, any one of these items was bad enough, but add them all up, and you find something even worse. An administration from the party of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John Kennedy had, incredibly, lost faith in the place of America, the role for good that America played, the moral mission of America in the world. They had set aside their party's and our Nation's faith in the future and put in its place a philosophy of malaise.

Well, they came up for a fitness review in November 1980, and the American people gave an overwhelming verdict on this liberal ideology of decline and retreat. The American people remembered a great General at the Battle of the Bulge, and, as he had said when called on to give up, when they went into the voting booth, they said just one eloquent word, "Nuts."

When I came to your Convention eight years ago, I pledged to restore America's strength. Today I stand before you to report, "mission accomplished."

I pledged that our strategic deterrent would be modernized, and it has. From the B-1 to the MX to the Trident, programs that our predecessors foolishly cancelled or delayed, we got back on track. Some have said that strategic modernization has been pursued at the expense of conventional modernization. Well, nothing could be further from the truth.

We stopped the decline of the Navy and today are within striking distance of a 600 ship fleet. Equally important, more vessels are now ready for action. In 1979, 26 of the Navy's ships were past due for an overhaul. For the last two years, none has been.

We strengthened the Army, giving it new and better tanks, new and better helicopters, new and better air defense including Stinger missiles, new and better equipment of all kinds, including modern anti-tank weapons, as well as improved armor for our own tanks. And we have increased the Army's size by two active divisions and two National Guard divisions.

And the Air Force today has better planes for every mission from tactical air support to transporting troops.

But the pledge I am proudest of keeping is the pledge I made to our young men and women in the services. Today, once again, Americans honor those who wear the uniforms of the United States of America.

Yes, we pay our servicemen and women what they very much deserve. And where, eight years ago, almost two-thirds of our men and women were dropping out at the end of their first tour, today almost half stay in when the first tour is up. As to how good they are, let me just repeat to you what base commanders from Camp Lejeune to the Korean DMZ have told me—today we have the best darned bunch of young men and women in uniform we've ever had. And we are proud of them.

Let me just stop here to tell you something that was passed along to me recently. You may remember that the head of the Soviet armed forces, Marshall Akhromeyev, visited our country several months ago. During his stay, we took Marshall Akhromeyev to visit our newest supercarrier, the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt. We thought it would be a valuable education for him. And so he saw that magnificent ship go through its paces. He watched our superb aircraft perform.

All in all, he spent a day on one of the technological wonders of the world, a floating airfield his Navy has nothing to equal, and yet you know what he said he was most impressed with when he was through with that visit and his visits to other military installations—our enlisted men and the women.

I was told he couldn't get over the fact that we had them doing work that the Soviets would reserve exclusively for officers, in many cases, very senior officers. And he couldn't believe that our enlisted people were so self-assured in speaking up when asked a question, so articulate in giving their replies, and so ready to add their opinions.

You know, it reminds me of what General George C. Marshall said when asked why he was so confident we would win World War II. He had a secret weapon, he said, "The best blankety-blank kids in the world." And it is still true.

We still have a secret weapon, as the Soviet Chief of Staff found, and it is still the best blankety-blank young men and women in the world.

By the way, when I say I am proud of the pledge we have kept to our men and women in uniform, I mean those whose service is past, as well. America's debt to those who would fight for her defense doesn't end the day the uniform comes off. The Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act I signed five years ago and the new G.I. Bill of Rights I signed last year are the least we can do to show our Nation's continuing gratitude. And before I leave office, I want to be sure that we have a Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs.

When I addressed you eight years ago, I pledged not only to rebuild America's power but to be ready to use it, if necessary, in defense of peace and of the ideals for which our Nation has always stood. From Libya to Grenada, we have kept that pledge.

And let me read to you one other pledge I made then. Here it is:

"Once we have the defense programs to reverse the trends now in favor of the Soviet Union, we must strive for arms limitation agreements that will further that security, including significant arms reductions, so long as they are equitable and based on strict reciprocity."

Now actually, I didn't read that for your benefit, but for the benefit of my gang on the platform back there. They keep saying that the INF agreement that I signed with Mr. Gorbachev, the first significant, equitable and reciprocal reduction of U.S. and Soviet nuclear missiles in history, shows how I've grown in my job. But I'm waiting for them to acknowledge the simple truth of what I've been saying for eight years about strengthening the only road to peace.

And then I will be able to say that they have grown up in their jobs.

Yes, we have come a long way these last eight years, you and I, working together for freedom and peace. And our reward is that from Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf to Southern Africa, we are bringing peace to long-raging conflicts, even as we frustrate Soviet aims. In eight years, we have not given up one square inch of land to communism.

And yet today relations between the United States and the Soviet Union are the best they have been in decades.

And yet, and yet for all this progress, for all the last eight years should have taught even the most confirmed critic of our policies, today, as I said at the start, we are still fighting the same battle we were fighting when I addressed you eight years ago.

We still hear the voices of the liberal ideology of decline and retreat. Again the hit list for cancellations or delays include the M.X., the B-1, a new Trident missile, and the surface Navy—this time two carrier battle groups. To that they've added nearly every major new weapons systems to become prominent on the scene since the last liberal administration went to its reward, including the Midgetman missile, the Stealth Bomber, and our Strategic Defense Initiative. And they have added that they will start a unilateral U.S. moratorium on underground nuclear testing and a ban on flight testing of missiles.

On the other hand, these voices say that they will build up our conventional defenses, including development of a so-called conventional defense initiative. What they fail to mention is that our Conventional Defense Initiative is already well underway.

For example, if it weren't for laser guided munitions part of any conventional defense initiative, we would not have been able to stage our successful strike against Qadhafi's Libya. They also fail to mention that when all is said and done, the conventional defense initiative they have outlined to date is smaller than the one we already are working on.

When it comes to defense, the liberal agenda hides behind heroic rhetoric. But this liberal agenda is no Superman; it's no Clark Kent; it's Jimmy Olson trying to impress his date.

The liberals like to talk about judgment and strategy, but where is the judgment and strategy in what they have endorsed?

For example, they have praised me for negotiating the INF treaty but opposed deploying the missiles that made that treaty possible. Did that show sound judgment?

They want to conclude more arms reduction treaties, but would cancel or delay the weapons systems on which successful negotiations will depend. Is that a plausible negotiating strategy?

. . . Cries of "No."

They profess their devotion to NATO, but would diminish the role of the very nuclear forces that NATO needs to deter the Soviets. Does that make any sense as military strategy?

. . . Cries of "No, no."

Their proposed ban on flight testing missiles and underground nuclear testing amounts to nothing more or less than the planned obsolescence of our strategic deterrent, abandoning the strategy that has kept the peace for decades. By cutting way back on SDI research, as they would do, they would abandon the only alternative to that decade's old strategy. Does that show judgment, strategy, or even plain old common sense?

And, by the way, some liberal critics of SDI support aggressive development of a ballistic missile defense for another country, Israel, even though they oppose all but a token effort to develop one for the United States. Defense for an ally, but not for the United States? Does that make sense?

. . . Cries of "No."

I am speaking to an educated audience.

Recently former Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger wrote that the liberal agenda seems, in his words, "to suggest that the way to deter war is to be unprepared to respond."

Yes, it comes down to this: After eight hard years rebuilding America's strength, do we want to return to a Disneyland defense policy, with Mickey Mouse treatment of our men and women in uniform; Goofy strategic plans; and Donald Duck-like lectures telling us that whatever goes wrong is our own blankety-blank fault? Or do we want to keep advancing up the road of strength and determination and peace and freedom?

. . . Cries of "Yes."

Now, this is my final plea to you today, on this, our last meeting of my Presidency. Let us make sure that the Nation moves forward in strengthening the foundations of peace and freedom in the years ahead. The world is watching us. The ages are watching us. After all, we are Americans and we have a mission.

And now before I go I just have to say one last thing to you. I know Mikhail Gorbachev. With our dealings with the Soviet Union now trying to establish a rapport there, some have become concerned that maybe I have been taken in now and I am taking us down a dangerous road.

Well, I told other groups before and I want to tell you that I have used a Russian phrase—I am not a linguist but I do know one little Russian phrase, and I used it on Mr. Gorbachev time after time until he is tired of hearing it.

. . . The President indicated a familiarity with the Russian phrase, which translated means, "Trust, but verify."

He finally let me know in Moscow that he had heard that often enough so I told him I had a good old American saying that I might switch to, "Trust everybody but cut the cards."

Thank you all. God bless you all. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Mr. President. You deeply honored us this evening by your appearance. We wish you God's blessing in your final days as our Commander-In-Chief. Thank you for all you have done for the veterans of America.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is very important. Please remain in your seats until the President has departed the Convention Center and the doors are opened. Our National Convention Banquet Reception will begin at 8:00 and our dinner is at 9:00. There is more entertainment to enjoy before the night is over.

May I thank you again one and all for this beautiful evening, for your appearing and your hospitality to the President of the United States. It is simply magnificent and made me very happy, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion stands in recess until 8:45 tomorrow morning.

. . . At 7:55 P.M., the Convention recessed, to reconvene the following day, Wednesday, September 7, 1988, at 8:45 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday Session—September 7, 1988

. . . The Convention was called to order by National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer at 8:45 a.m., E.D.T.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Convention will come to order.

The Delegates will stand at right hand salute to the Flag of The United States of America.

. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, please uncover and join me in the Pledge to the Flag of The United States.

. . . The Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of The United States of America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: For the invocation, I would like to call on your National Chaplain, the Rev. Jerry Salveson of North Dakota.

INVOCATION

Rev. Jerry Salveson, North Dakota

National Chaplain

Gracious Lord, you have given us a new day, a new opportunity, new privileges.

You will place before us challenges, You will give us choices. We ask for Your wisdom and we thank You for Your presence. We rejoice in the words that You gave us when You said, You will never leave us, nor forsake us.

So as we claim those, Lord as we ask that with Your guidance, we may serve You, our Nation and our American Legion in Jesus' name, Amen.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Mr. Herman Harrington, of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and other internal matters for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF SECTION ON CREDENTIALS AND OTHER MATTERS

(Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs)

Section II, Other Internal Matters

Herman G. Harrington (NY) Chairman

Mr. Commander, Chaplain Salveson, Fellow Delegates to this 70th Convention of The American Legion. we are pleased to report to you that 39 Resolutions were received and reviewed by the Committee. Of these, one was approved, one was approved as amended, seven were approved as consolidated and amended, twelve were referred, six were received and recorded and twelve were rejected.

Five additional Resolutions all pertaining to the "Korean War Memorial" were also rejected by your Committee as being contrary to existing American Legion policy regarding the Korean War Memorial, which policy was originally established by Resolution No. 32 adopted by the NEC in May of 1984, reaffirmed in Resolution No. 195 by the Delegates to the Convention in New Orleans in 1985, further emphasized by Resolution No. 132 by the Delegates to the National Convention in Cincinnati in 1986, and most recently by Resolution No. 21 approved by the NEC in May of 1987.

Which resolution would provide for a fund-raising endeavor by The American Legion if certain fiduciary conditions and constraints relating to financial obligations and accountability were agreed to as was the case for the successful raising of funds by The American Legion for the Vietnam War Memorial.

Because the Resolutions in question are a complete contradiction of all the aforementioned Resolutions that were adopted by Delegates to previous Conventions, and because they are a complete contradiction to the Resolution that enabled The American Legion to so successfully support the Vietnam War Memorial, your Committee recommends the following Resolutions be rejected as well:

Res 236 (MN), Requests Creation of a National Committee on Conservation of Natural Resources

Res 117 (IL), Korean War Veterans Memorial
Res 200 (WI), Korean War Veterans Memorial
Res 257 (DC), Korean War Veterans Memorial
Res 301 (VA), Korean War Veterans Memorial
Res 430 (MD), Korean War Veterans Memorial
Res 255 (DC), USS Battleship Utah

Received and Recorded

The following Resolutions are recommended to be received and recorded:

Res 293 (MI), Rev. Frederick R. "Bob" Davidson
Res 130 (NY), Airborne Commemorative Postage Stamp
Res 131 (NY), Korean Veteran Commemorative Postage Stamp
Res 449 (CA), The American Legion Commemorative Stamp
Res 269 (AR), Insurance on American Legion Properties and Surety Bonds
Res 142 (TX), Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Card

Referred

The following Resolutions are recommended for referral as noted for further study and report:

To Internal Affairs Commission

Res 326 (MA), James Caddigan
Res 466 (CA), Henry Johnson and Dorie Miller
Res 258 (DC), Historic Military Sites
Res 431 (MD), Historic Military Sites
Res 460 (CA), National Historic Monument at Manzanar

To Emblem Committee

Res 429 (MD), Sons of The American Legion Cap

To Finance Commission

Res 201 (WI), National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion Reimbursement Expenses

Res 120 (VT), National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion Reimbursement Expenses

Res 106 (Canada), Foreign Department Expenses

To The American Legion Magazine Commission

Res 116 (IL), The American Legion Magazine

To Convention Commission

Res 32 (CO), Scheduling of the National Convention

Res 141 (TX), Host Department Housing at the National Convention

Approved as Amended

Res 212 (IN), Enola Gay

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation, and

WHEREAS, This service is performed through The American Legion's basic programs, and

WHEREAS, An organization known as "The Committee for the Restoration of the Enola Gay" requested an article be published in The American Legion Magazine, and

WHEREAS, Said article described a plan to restore and display the Enola Gay at no cost to the taxpayer, and

WHEREAS, The Enola Gay, being the B29 Bomber that dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan, ending World War II, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it support the effort to restore this historic aircraft to ensure it will never fade into obscurity but shall be displayed as a symbol for present and future generations that the price of freedom and peace has always been an awesome sacrifice of human lives.

Approved as Consolidated and Amended

Res 73 (OH), Japanese Reparations

Res 90 (OK), Japanese Reparations

Res 166 (PA), Japanese Reparations

Res 342 (WA), Japanese Reparations

Approved as consolidated and amended, using the text of Resolution 90 (OK)

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has seen fit to enact legislation providing authority for the Japanese internees during World War II to collect up to $20,000.00 per person, and

WHEREAS, This legislation was signed into Public Law 100-383 on August 10, 1988, by the President of the United States, and

WHEREAS, Public Law 100-383 provides for such tax-free payments out of a 1.25 billion dollar trust fund which is to be established, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it is opposed to tax-free status of any and all payment of reparations since one of the supporting reasons or justification for such payment must have been the income lost while interned, which income would have been taxable at the high rates applicable during World War II and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion is opposed to the appropriation of funds to pay reparations to those described in Public Law 100-383, as a result of their internment during World War II.

Res 74 (OH), World War II Memorial and Museum

Res 213 (IN), World War II Memorial and Museum

Res 256 (DC), World War II Memorial

Approved as consolidated and amended using the text of Resolution 213 (IN)

WHEREAS, The United States entered into a great conflict on December 7, 1941, and fought world tyranny during the course of World War II, and

WHEREAS, The Nation is considering construction of a memorial and museum in Washington, D.C. to honor the veterans of World War II, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that support be shown to the construction of this monument in our nation's capitol without financial obligation by The American Legion.

Approved

Res 497 (Credentials and Internal Affairs), Appreciation to Host Department City

WHEREAS, The 70th National Convention has been held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988; and

WHEREAS, There has been a warm feeling of cooperation and friendship evidenced by the Legionnaires of Louisville, Kentucky, the officers of the Convention Corporation and the Department, and by the officials and the people of Louisville, Kentucky; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Kentucky, the city officials of Louisville, to the 1988 National Convention Corporation of Kentucky, to local citizens and Legionnaires and especially to the National Convention Corporation members, J. Leslie Brown, Jr., President, Harold Y. Saunders, Vice-President, John W. Adams, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer, Michael D. Leon, Norbert H. Gadlage, Joseph K. Goodness, Silas M. Noel, Kenneth W. Hart, and Harold W. Fann. Around this nucleus has been built the moving force providing for every necessity for a successful, enjoyable Convention.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: That concludes my report, Mr. Commander, and as a duly registered Delegate in the Department of New York I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The Motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: On the question, Microphone 2.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN FOLEY, Minnesota: Past National Commander Dan Foley, a Delegate from Minnesota. I request that our Resolution 236 be set aside for separate consideration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Without objection it is so ordered.

The Motion that is before us now is to approve the report with the exception of 236 which has been laid aside. It has been seconded. On the question, all those in favor; opposed. The ayes have it and I so declare.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HARRINGTON: Resolution 236 has been set aside. It originated in the Department of Minnesota and it reads as follows:

Res No. 236—Creation of a National Committee on Conservation of Natural Resources. Submitted by: Minnesota

WHEREAS, This Nation can be no stronger than its natural resources base; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's air, soil, waters, forests and minerals are being steadily degraded and deplenished at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, Energy and conservation aspects of our natural resources are recognized and dignified with specific committee designation at the Post, District and various Department levels of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Recognition of energy and conservation problems are not specifically structured components of The American Legion program at the National level; and

WHEREAS, Such recognition would help focus attention on National conservation needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that a National Committee on Conservation of Natural Resources be established by The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the duties and responsibilities of that committee shall be to receive and consider all natural resource conservation oriented resolutions, and to maintain appropriate liaison with the Executive Office, the Congress and Federal and State Agencies, as the situation requires.

Mr. Commander, I move the rejection of this Resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Motion has been made for the rejection of Resolution No. 236. Do I hear a second?

. . . The Motion was duly seconded.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN FOLEY: I have discussed this matter with the Convention Committee and I am offering a substitute Motion which I understand he is prepared to accept that this Resolution from the Department of Minnesota be referred to the Standing Commission on Internal Affairs for further study.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You have heard the Motion. I have accepted the Motion. The Motion has been made to refer the Resolution to the Standing Commission for further study.

. . . The Motion was duly seconded.

It has been duly seconded. On the question. All those in favor; opposed. It's a vote and I so declare it. I declare now that Resolution 236 has been referred and the report of the Credentials and Internal Affairs Section II has been adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next speaker comes to us from an organization that has supported our men and women in uniform for many years, the USO. The USO brings entertainment and comfort to military members around the globe.

This individual witnessed the USO in action himself when he served with the United States Army in Vietnam. It was there the Sergeant distinguished himself not once, but twice, to receive Purple Hearts for gallantry.

I'm pleased at this time to introduce a fellow Legionnaire from Harkman Post 84 in Columbus, Nebraska, the Honorable Charles Hagel.

CHARLES T. HAGEL
President, USO World Headquarters

Jake, thank you, and good morning. If you are concerned about empty seats, don't be, those who are not here yet are still back at the hotel for last night's entertainment. We have two more hours to go but they will be finished by lunch today, Jake. That was a great show and we are grateful. Thank you very much.

There are over two million men and women in uniform today who represent America and its values and its freedoms around the globe. When you add another three million to that number who are dependents of those 2.2 million men and women, that represents a fairly large constituency of Americans charged with protecting Western interests. We, as an organization who have been around almost 50 years, take our responsibility to assist them where we can and as that we can seriously and we are grateful to The American Legion and to The American Legion Auxiliary for all you have done to support us.

We have 176 organizations all over the globe. Most of those are outside the Continental United States and they focus primarily on many of the recreational, morale, welfare options that we provide those men and women in uniform and their families.

It takes about $25 million dollars a year for us to sustain our budget and to make sure we bring quality programs and services to those magnificent people who do so much for all of us, and your leadership and organization has meant a great deal to us and will continue to do so.

Much of what President Reagan said last night as to what has been accomplished in the last eight years we feel good about, we feel proud about, and our organization feels that it has had something to do with that.

One of the things that we can do as a civilian non-profit non-government agency is to support our leaders in this country, not only in the interests of a strong defense, but also in the interest of supporting veterans and their causes, and also bring hopefully a common sense dimension to national security, and especially a common sense human dimension to the men and women who have to carry out those programs that the Administration and the Congress decide are in the best interests of this country. I believe occasionally that we allow that humaness to escape when we talk about policy, when we debate policy, and surely there will be a great debate over the next four years, regardless of who is elected President in November, of the parameters of our defense forces and how much defense we want and how much we can afford, and within that debate we must not allow the humaness element to fall by the wayside and not remember what it takes for a young sailor to be out on a ship in the Persian Gulf for three to five to six months at a time with long separations from families, the transfer of obligations that we have worldwide in many very remote locations. So, we as an organization try and address those human issues, and we count on the leadership of organizations like yours to help us do that.

One thing that we have to be primarily concerned about, as you do, is the future of our organization. When you consider that most of the population in this country under the age of 50 has not been touched by military service that means that to acquaint one in those generations with what military services does, its responsibilities, its obligations, and how it touches society, is not easy, and we see it as in our organization in various ways.

United Way, for example, as they charge forward and raise the monies that they need to fulfill obligations to very worthy charitable organizations in their communities, sometimes by the mere fact that those of the United Way's panels are not paneled as much as was once the case by veterans of World War II or Korea or Vietnam, and organizations like the USO gets overlooked and we are replaced in the funding process by other organizations of more local and parochial interests.

There is nothing wrong with that, but that means we must go out and develop a new resource basis. So, for our organization to thrive and do as much in the next 50 years as we have done in the last 50 we are going to have to reeducate and reorient two or three new generations to the worthiness of what we do and why it is important that there is an organization like the USO to assist these young men and women and their families across the globe, because at any one time there are almost a million men and women in uniform outside the United States' borders.

So, it is tough duty, as you all know, and we as an organization with our 50th anniversary coming up very soon will put a high priority on trying to do that.

I also want to thank Bob Spanogle, your National Adjutant, for his willingness to serve on our USO World Board of Governors. Bob took a personal role in our Board earlier this year. We are grateful for that.

I also want to thank Jake Comer and his Administration for what they have done for the USO this last year, and we continue to look forward to working with the new leadership of The American Legion and the Auxiliary, and again to all of you for what you have done for us we are grateful. Have a great Convention. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Chuck, and thank you also for your service to The American Legion as a consultant on the Policy Coordination and Action Group which we chair and your association with us.

Thank you for the many hours of comfort and entertainment the USO has given to our men and women in uniform, and certainly come back and join us many many more times in the future.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: With more American owners of firearms than ever before, The American Legion has developed a close working relationship with the National Rifle Association to establish a gun safety and marksmanship training program. Some of our Post homes have been used for special schools in a joint effort to promote gun safety.

With us today is the President of the National Rifle Association. A former governor of South Dakota, he also served that state as U.S. Congressman. He is widely recognized for his television series: "The Outdoorsman," and as host of the "American Sportsman" television show. He is a World War II Marine combat ace, having shot down 26 enemy airplanes. Let us give a warm welcome to Mr. Joe Foss.

JOE FOSS, PRESIDENT
National Rifle Association

Thank you. Its great to be here. In fact it is great to be anywhere. When I wake up in the morning I thank the good Lord that I am here for one more day, and I know there are a lot of you who feel that way everyday.

I have got to straighten out one thing, Jake. I see you have got me in the Congress. I never was in Congress. I tried one time and came in second in a field of two. But, I was in the Legislature.

Well, you know, I used to put in a lot of time working with The American Legion, but I noticed that all of those old goats I used to work with have left. I saw Erle Cocke yesterday, one of the Past National Commanders. Take fellows like Eddie Rickenbacker and Roscoe Turner and Mike Gardner and all of that group, old Carlisle Godski, have either gotten too old to make it or they just left for a better place, I know.

We used to travel across the country working on "air power is peace power," and that was right after World War II. We had a great team. Some of my boys that flew with me at that time are here. We used to fly over the fields upside down, you know, so they could see in the cockpit and see whether we were really in there, and the only casualty we ever had was an exhaust fell off one time and broke the tile on the top of a roof out in Denver. If that would have been today we would still be tangled up in a lawsuit. But, that lady's roof that it hit just came out and tried to pick it up and it was still hot so she left it there and we retrieved it.

Now, I head up an organization that I am proud and honored to head up, the National Rifle Association, the right to keep and bear arms, and the reason I get so enthusiastic about that is just to fight the half-truths of the antis that come at us.

You know, there is always someone that is trying to disarm our great nation. They really want to do away with the Defense Department and everything else, and especially they want to do away with the right to keep and bear arms of individuals.

You have those that come out and say that the only ones that should be permitted to have a gun would be a police officer or a soldier. Well now in our country, I know it's a great country and all that, but I hate to go to bed at night with a sign on my door that would say, "No guns in this house," because some creep is liable to come in and try and share things with you, and I have just never been enthusiastic about unwanted callers. As a result, I fight and fight a tough battle all the way, as does the National Rifle Association, the organization that I head up.

But, I read in the paper all the time what a powerful organization we are. We have about three million members, and I stop and think, there are at least seventy million gun owners in our country. Where are all the rest of them? You know, I don't know whether it's just to hang the gun on the wall or to use it in hunting season or to go to the range. I don't know whether it's a rifle or shotgun, whatever it is. Where are all these people? So, just since I became President, which was this past April, I have put on a hard drive to get additional members. I maintain that people in political office from the ground level right on up they hear the voice of numbers and they listen very intently to that. The reason we have been very successful, of course, is that a great percentage of men and women that are in the halls of Congress and the various legislatures around the country are members of our great organization. But, it is an organization that really and truly goes out. We try to work with the young people, and do work with the young people in our association, and our coming association with The American Legion is one of the best things that has happened to us. This is a great organization, and you can never deny that fact, but The American Legion is a great group of patriots. Everyone that is in here loves this great country of ours, as is borne out by our Pledge of Allegiance. You know, every meeting that you open with a Pledge of Allegiance that is what our whole country should be doing. This country was made great by the people that came here from all over the world and it just melted into one. It isn't where you come from that counts it's where you are going, and every time we have had an emergency the people rise up and get that enthusiasm to go out and stop anyone that is really trying to take us over and run us in the wrong direction.

When it comes to arming, you know, having the right to keep and bear arms, I think of the places that were disarmed like Germany. I maintain that the awful things that happened in Germany would never have happened had that country been armed. When the Gestapo came knocking at the door some of those bums would have gotten blown up and they wouldn't have had the enthusiasm to pick up families and take them off to the incinerator. Here sitting right in the middle of all this is Switzerland where it is required by law that every home have a gun in it. No one is enthusiastic about going in there and invading the rights of those people.

Right now over in England, of course, it has been a creeping thing where they have tried to sneak up on it and took away the handguns and then took away the rifles and are now trying to take away the shotguns. The reason old "Hitler" was a little bit hesitant about putting the paratroopers into England was because some of the little old ladies had those twelve gauges and if a paratrooper came down he would have gotten a couple of hotspots and he wouldn't have been enthusiastic about that. So, it kept them on the right side of the channel.

Well, I have used up my time but I just want to thank you for inviting me to come and join you at this 70th Convention and giving me an opportunity to see my good friends from South Dakota here who I am so happy to see are right in the front row. You know, that is an indication that they really did a job on membership, and, after all, that is the name in any organization, get those members. I am proud of you, I am proud of this State in a lot of respects. God bless you all. Thank you for coming.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Mr. Foss. I was privileged to visit your headquarters in Washington and was well received. Thank you very much for our association. We assure you also, Joe, that we will continue to work with the National Rifle Association to ensure an established gun safety and marksmanship program. That is getting to be one of our great programs in The American Legion.

* * *

PRESENTATION EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Right now, about one million veterans are looking for a job. Countless others are underemployed and are looking for full-time employment. Still others have given up entirely on the employment system.

Because of the constant job struggle veterans face when they leave the service, The American Legion has always offered job assistance to veterans.

The effort has been a continuous one consisting of monitoring jobs programs, working for veterans preference in job hiring, and with job counseling.

Since 1969 the Legion has recognized employers from around the country who have exhibited outstanding records in hiring and retaining veterans.

I am pleased to recognize two such organizations as 1987 employers of the year.

The award is given in two categories: One for companies employing more than 200 workers and the other for companies employing fewer than 200 workers. Each is nominated at the Post level, advances through Department competition and then competes with other Department finalists at the National level.

This year the award in the under 200 category goes to Stran Buildings in LaGrange, Georgia.

The award in the over 200 category goes to Twitchell of Dothan, Alabama.

Representing Twitchell we have Mr. Joseph Blake, Personnel Director, and accepting on behalf of Stran Buildings is Mr. Jan Spitzer, Employee Relations Manager.

This is a great honor for us, sir, "The American Legion National Award Outstanding Employer Of the Year 1987, presented to Twitchell for an exceptional record in the employment of veterans, presented at the 70th Annual National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky, September 6-8, 1988," and countersigned properly by all four signatures. Sir, it's a great honor. Thank you very much.

MR. JOSEPH BLAKE
Personnel Director
Twitchell, Dothan, Alabama

Twitchell is owned and operated and managed by Americans who believe that we owe our veterans a debt and we try to repay the debt to the ones that fought the wars, the ones that are the peacekeepers that make it unnecessary to fight wars. By repaying this debt we try to make as many job opportunities available for veterans as we can. However, this is not a one-way street. We find that veterans are good, loyal, hard working employees. They are good for us, we are good for them. We like veterans and we will continue to employ veterans.

I would like to thank you for this honor and for this beautiful plaque which we will proudly display in our offices at the company in Dothan, Alabama. God bless The American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary for the fine work you do, and thank you again.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: A similar citation. There is no need to read it, other than to say that it is a national award for being an outstanding employer, Stran Buildings, LaGrange, Georgia.

MR. JAN SPITZER
Employee Relations Manager
Stran Buildings, LaGrange, Georgia

It is a pleasure to be here on behalf of Stran Buildings of LaGrange, Georgia.

Most of you veterans have a lot more in common with Stran than you probably think. Until it became an agricultural brand of buildings recently we are the folks that brought you the quonset hut. It is probably a good thing you didn't know that earlier.

We are very proud to receive this award, for the same reason that Twitchell has noted. We find that hiring veterans is an excellent thing to do. They make tremendous employees, and we are going to continue to do it. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much Mr. Spitzer. These awards represent the highest theme of The American Legion. We are happy to have presented them to both of you.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair now recognizes Mr. Bruce Thiesen of California, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Economics for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS
Bruce Thiesen, (CA) Chairman

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, The American Legion 70th Convention, this is the report of the Convention Committee on Economics, and is as follows:

At 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 4, 1988, 83 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Economics met in Room 210, Upper Level of the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Bruce Thiesen (California) was elected Chairman and Mr. Frank LaRocca (New York) was elected Secretary.

The Convention Economic Committee was divided into two parts: Employment and Veterans Preference, and Other Economic Matters, which elected to meet together. Mr. Henry Field (South Carolina) was elected Chairman of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference and Mr. L.A. Santillanes (New Mexico) was elected Secretary. Mr. James McMahon (Maine) was elected Chairman of Other Economic Matters and Mr. Eugene Buggy (Pennsylvania) was elected Secretary.

One hundred thirty four Resolutions were considered by your Committee. In response to a call from the National Adjutant on Friday, September 2, 1988, a Resolutions Screening Committee composed of Bruce Thiesen (California), Chairman, Henry J. Field

(South Carolina), James A. McMahon (Maine), L.A. Santillanes (New Mexico) and Winston B. Reider (Minnesota) met in Room III of the Commonwealth Convention Center, Lower Level, and made recommendations on the Resolutions to be considered by the Convention Committee on Economics.

The fine work performed by the Economic Screening Committee in analyzing and grouping the Resolutions was of great assistance to the Convention Committee, and it is recommended that an Economic Screening Committee be appointed for the next National Convention Committee on Economics.

In considering the Resolutions presented, the Committee took the position that the subject matter should be germane to veterans to avoid putting The American Legion on record in fields unrelated to veterans affairs.

Of the 134 Resolutions considered, 133 were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from 18 Departments, and one originated in the Convention Economics Committee.

Henry J. Field, South Carolina and Jim McMahon from Maine will assist me in reading parts of this report.

* * *

. . . The following portion of the Committee on Economics report was presented by Committee Chairman Henry J. Field, South Carolina:

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND VETERANS PREFERENCE

Henry J. Field (SC), Chairman:

Forty-one members of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference met in joint session with the Committee on Other Economic Matters and considered one hundred thirty-one (131) Resolutions, of which one hundred nine (109) were consolidated into fifteen (15) Resolutions which are being submitted for approval; five (5) were referred to the Standing Economic Commission; thirteen (13) were received and recorded; and four (4) were recommended for rejection. The following is a summary of their action.

Approved Resolutions

Res No: 149 (Texas), as amended. Consolidated with Res. 13 (Utah), 169 (Pennsylvania), 191 (Wisconsin), 215 (Indiana), 328 (Massachusetts), 437 (New Mexico), and 469 (California)

Subject: **Enforce Affirmative Action Required of Federal Contractors**

WHEREAS, Enforcement of the requirement of Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, that any private contractor or subcontractor with a government contract for the procurement of property or services of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era, has been vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) of the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, There has been no meaningful and effective enforcement of this requirement in the OFCCP, and qualified veterans have been denied employment opportunities within the private sector, contrary to the intent of Congress in providing such a benefit; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for veterans employment programs within the U.S. Department of Labor has been assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, with appropriate staffing and funding, with the exception of the cited provisions of law required of Federal contractors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation to place in the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training responsibility for implementing and enforcing the requirement of the law that private contractors or subcontractors with Federal contracts shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training shall be provided sufficient funds for additional staff and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this mandate, with employees of the Department of Labor administering provisions of this law administratively responsible to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

Res No: 14 (Utah). Subject: **Veterans Affirmative Action For Federal Grantees**

WHEREAS, Section 2012 of Title 38, United States Code provides that any private contractor or subcontractor with a Federal contract for the procurement of property or services of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in the employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, Such Federal contractors and subcontractors are required to list immediately any suitable job openings with the local employment service office, so that such office may provide eligible veterans priority of referral as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Public agencies receiving Federal grants for such procurements and services are not subject to these affirmative action or job listing requirements; and

WHEREAS, The past decade has witnessed a trend away from direct Federal administration of public services toward provision of such services by state and local government through Federal block grants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, urges the Congress to amend Section 2012 of Title 38, United States Code to require Federal grantees and their subcontractors to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment of disabled and Vietnam era veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such grantees and subcontractors be required to list immediately with the local Employment Service office all of its suitable employment openings.

Res No: 84 (Maine). Consolidated with Res. 33 (Colorado), 216 (Indiana), 327 (Massachusetts), 435 (New Mexico), 93 (Oklahoma), 101 (Oklahoma), 143 (Texas), 23 (Utah), 161 (Texas), and 189 (Wisconsin).

Subject: **Oppose Any Weakening of the Employment Service**

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor is assigned by Federal law the responsibility for effective job placement, counseling and training programs for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The State Employment Security Agency system, established under the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, constitutes the keystone of the nation's veterans employment system; and

WHEREAS, The administration has proposed to assist states in the development of legislation to devolve to the states by 1988 the overall responsibility for managing and financing their Employment Service and Unemployment Insurance System; and

WHEREAS, State Employment Services now provide priority of referral to veterans because of Federal law; and

WHEREAS, Previous legislative initiatives by the Department of Labor, such as the Job Training Partnership Act, transferred policy and operational decisions to state and local authorities, and virtually excludes veterans as a national target group, entitled to priority service; and

WHEREAS, State and local governments planning and operating jobs placement and job training programs view veterans as a Federal responsibility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any legislation, regulatory, or administrative measure which would weaken or relinquish Federal control of the Employment Service and its requirements for preference for veterans.

Res No: 329 (Massachusetts). Consolidated with 16 (Utah), 83 (Maine), 144 (Texas), 186 (Wisconsin), and 217 (Indiana).

Subject: **Dislocated Workers**

WHEREAS, During the past decade the nation has been in a state of transition from an industrial to a post-industrial economy, resulting in substantial economic turbulence, with widespread plant closures, loss of family farms, and unemployment; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor estimates that over five million workers have been dislocated from their jobs since 1979, of whom 1,250,000, or 26% are veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veteran dislocated workers are also older workers, whose careers have been interrupted and who are experiencing additional job finding difficulties associated with age discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies have also shown that recently discharged service personnel have difficulty in translating military skills and experience to civilian experience, with consequent job finding difficulty and delay in entering the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have been underserved by the dislocated workers program authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation or administrative action to target, as a critical segment of the workforce, dislocated workers who are veterans in any national program for dislocated workers; including the Worker Readjustment Program under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act program and therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training: 1) conduct research into the causes of job dislocation among veterans; and 2) develop a pilot program under Title IV-C of JTPA or other funding source which specifically addresses their employment needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That recently discharged military veterans be included as an eligible group to be served under any national programs for dislocated workers; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to waive the unemployment eligibility requirement for dislocated workers desiring to participate in the Veterans Job Training Act program.

Res. No: 184 (Wisconsin), as amended. Consolidate with 36 (Nebraska), 59 (North Carolina), 100 (Oklahoma), 110 (Illinois), 113 (Illinois), 146 (Texas), 162 (Texas), 163 (Texas), 273 (Arkansas), 276 (Arkansas), and 470 (California).

Subject: **Adequate Funding For Veterans Employment and Training Service and State Employment Service Agencies**

WHEREAS, The American Legion, since its inception, has supported the concept of full employment for all veterans available, willing and able to work, with special concern for those with disabilities, especially the service-connected disabled; and

WHEREAS, Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapters 41, 42, and 43, as amended, mandates that adequate job counseling, job training and job placement shall be provided all veterans, with special consideration for service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The responsibility of such service is the obligation of the individual state employment security system with the individual Job Service office responsible for the delivery of such service; and

WHEREAS, Adequate funds to perform the travel, supervision and monitoring of state agency operations are necessary for the Veterans Employment and Training Service to efficiently and effectively meet these obligations; and

WHEREAS, Adequate funds and personnel are a necessity for state agencies to implement and operate an adequate veterans employment program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion does hereby go on record to urge Congress, the Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget to provide sufficient funds for the Department of Labor to adequately fund the Veterans Employment and Training Service and the State Employment Service agencies so both can provide the services to veterans as mandated in Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapters 41, 42, and 43.

Res No: 171 (Pennsylvania). Consolidated with 22 (Utah), 185 (Wisconsin), 218 (Indiana), 272 (Iowa), 332 (Massachusetts), and 439 (New Mexico).

Subject: **Aiding Homeless Veterans**

WHEREAS, The problem of the homeless in the United States, especially in the urban areas, is attracting greater attention and the recognition that these homeless people constitute a great loss to society; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that approximately 30 percent of the homeless are veterans, averaging under 40 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment and their veteran status have contributed to the homeless condition of many of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training in the Department of Labor is responsible for delivery of employment services to veterans in the Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion participate in programs to aid homeless veterans, and to cooperate with and promote, efforts by the Department of Labor, the Veterans' Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, and any other agency with the resources to aid in the rehabilitation and employment of these veterans.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MCMAHON: The Chairman of the Economics Commission will continue on.

Res No: 220 (Indiana). Consolidated with Res. 12 (Utah), 64 (North Carolina), 85 (Maine), 96 (Oklahoma), 111 (Illinois), 154 (Texas), 187 (Wisconsin), 274 (Arkansas), 331 (Massachusetts), 346 (Washington), and 434 (New Mexico).

Subject: **Veterans Employment Programs In The Job Training Partnership Act**

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was enacted as the nation's major delivery system to serve the employment training needs of disadvantaged adults and youths; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in history the Federal government's major job training system does not target, nor even address, the needs of veterans, except for a small, discretionary program under Title IV, Subpart C of the Act; with veterans being significantly underserved by most Job Training Partnership Act programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor has historically refused to provide targeted priority services to veterans unless specifically mandated to do so by law; and

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act gives the various States and Service Delivery Areas receiving Federal funds nearly total discretion as to their use, including targeting of significant segments; and

WHEREAS, A State Job Training Coordinating Council and local Private Industry Councils, comprised of members from the private sector, local labor organizations, education and non-profit and for-profit organizations, determine how funds are to be distributed to meet the needs of local areas; and

WHEREAS, For veterans to be adequately served by the Job Training Partnership Act they must have strong representation in the entire decision making process; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation to amend the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to provide for: 1) veteran service organization representation on all State Job Coordinating Councils and local Private Industry Councils; 2) special targeting of veterans under the Act to provide priority of service in all appropriate titles; and 3) clear authority for the U.S. Department of Labor, through the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, to monitor and assure compliance with these mandates, including regular collection of such data and statistics as the Assistant Secretary may determine to be necessary to ascertain compliance; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to amend Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38, United States Code, to provide for priority services for veterans in all appropriate job placement and job training programs funded completely or in part by the Department of Labor.

Res No: 112 (Illinois), as amended. Consolidate with 15 (Utah), 145 (Texas), 183 (Wisconsin), 219 (Indiana), 330 (Massachusetts), and 436 (New Mexico).

Subject: **Adequate Funding For Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act**

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was enacted to prepare veterans, youths, unskilled adults and others for jobs in the labor market; and

WHEREAS, Title IV establishes Federally administered programs for special target groups, including veterans, Native Americans, and migrant and seasonal farm workers; and

WHEREAS, Title IV-C is the only provision of JTPA which provides for specific services to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The $10 million in funds provided under Title IV-C are entirely inadequate to address the pressing employment/training needs of veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, Employment and training programs for Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farm workers are annually funded at a level of $60 million each; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate funding for veterans programs and failure to identify veterans in other Job Training Partnership Act programs prevented programs under this Act from adequately addressing the employment needs of the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge Congress to increase funding for veterans employment/training programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act to at least $60 million per year.

Res No: 62 (North Carolina). Consolidated with Res. 471 (California)

Subject: **Unemployment Benefits For Veterans**

WHEREAS, Employees when found unemployed due to no fault of their own, are eligible to receive unemployment benefits after one (1) week and for a maximum number of 26 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Veterans being discharged after successfully completing their enlistment must wait four (4) or more weeks to become eligible for unemployment benefits and are eligible for only a maximum of 13 weeks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion hereby recommends our national headquarters seek legislation to limit the number of weeks a veteran must wait to be found eligible and the number of weeks of eligibility for unemployment benefits to be the same as for the civilian labor force.

Res No: 30 (Colorado). Consolidated with 21 (Utah), 61 (North Carolina), 87 (Maine), 95 (Oklahoma), 152 (Texas), 196 (Wisconsin), 222 (Indiana), and 334 (Massachusetts).

Subject: **Definition of Vietnam Veterans for Employment Services**

WHEREAS, Public Law 92-540 substantially strengthened the provision in Chapters 41 and 42 of Title 38, United States Code, for ensuring effective employment services to veterans through the public employment service by requiring maximum and priority services for disabled and Vietnam era veterans; and

WHEREAS, After 1991, Vietnam era veterans will constitute a large majority of veterans in the labor force and will thus require employment and training services; and

WHEREAS, The provision of effective employment services to all veterans through the public employment service depends largely on the work of the Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of Title 38, United States Code, currently provides that no veteran shall be considered a veteran of the Vietnam era after December 31, 1991, for the purpose of receiving service under that Chapter and Chapter 41; and

WHEREAS, The staffing levels for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program is determined by the disabled and Vietnam era veteran population in each state; and

WHEREAS, After December 31, 1991, the total number of Disabled Veterans Outreach Program personnel will be reduced by 75%, and the total number of veteran-dedicated staff in the public employment service reduced by 43% because of the Vietnam era veteran definition change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation to amend Chapter 42, Title 38, United States Code, deleting any time limit for the definition of a Vietnam era veteran, using for the definition of a Vietnam era veteran the period of military service.

Res No: 94 (Oklahoma). Consolidated with 17 (Utah), 28 (Colorado), 153 (Texas), 197 (Wisconsin), 224 (Indiana), 336 (Massachusetts), 345 (Washington), and 433 (New Mexico).

Subject: **Reauthorization of the Veterans Job Training Act**

WHEREAS, The Nation has long recognized that employment and employment training is one of the principal readjustment needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Unlike other readjustment problems, such as education, housing, and health care, Congress has created no long term initiative to address the employment training needs of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans have and are continuing to experience structural unemployment and underemployment problems, with the Department of Labor reporting that one quarter of displaced workers are veterans; and

WHEREAS, No veterans job training program created in the last generation has been of sufficient longevity to gain the confidence of the employer community in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the two-year Emergency Veterans Job Training Act in 1982, and has subsequently extended it as the Veterans Job Training Act; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Job Training Act has placed over 60,000 veterans but hundreds of thousands of other veterans who applied for participation have yet to be placed, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to permanently authorize the Veterans Job Training Act to provide a sustained program for training and placing eligible veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such legislation contain authorization for, and Congress be urged to appropriate, sufficient funding, at no less than $75 million per year, to operate the Veterans Job Training Act through the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

Res No: 11 (Utah). Consolidated with 82 (Maine), 91 (Oklahoma), 147 (Texas), 168 (Pennsylvania), 190 (Wisconsin), 226 (Indiana), and 338 (Massachusetts).

Subject: **Oppose Contracting Out of Those Federal Jobs Reserved For Veterans**

WHEREAS, Federal law provides that the positions of guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians in Federal agencies are restricted to veterans preference eligibles; and

WHEREAS, Those positions have often been contracted out to private contractors, thus denying a preference eligible the opportunity to compete for these positions; and

WHEREAS, The Federal government intends to increase contracting out these services to private contractors, thus circumventing the intent of the above positions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation to prohibit the contracting out of those positions as guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians restricted by Federal statute to veterans preference eligibles.

. . . Committee Chairman Thiesen continued the report as follows:

Res No: 173 (Pennsylvania). Consolidated with Res. 18 (Utah), 88 (Maine), 193 (Wisconsin), 221 (Indiana), and 333 (Massachusetts).

Subject: **Enforcement of Veterans Preference In the Postal Service**

WHEREAS, Congress included in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 a provision that veterans preference shall apply in the Postal Service in the same manner and under the same conditions as if the applicant, officer, or employee were subject to the competitive service in Federal employment; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Service Commission, and subsequently, the Office of Personnel Management, has not enforced the provisions of this Act as it effects veterans, applying to and employed by, the Postal Service, thereby nullifying the intent of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have had long and commendable service in the Postal Service, comprising 70% of all Postal Service employees in 1970, a percentage which has declined to 46% in 1986; and

WHEREAS, The Postal Service has persistently evaded applying veterans preference as intended by law, illustrated by a recently imposed system (called OPTEX) of testing job applicants in large cities at random, thereby leaving many veterans with five point preference untested and thereby not eligible for consideration for hiring, at which time veterans preference would apply; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Personnel Management has stated that it has no authority to enforce compliance by the U.S. Postal Service with the provisions of Title 5, United States Code, on veterans preference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion seek legislation to give the U.S. Office of Personnel Management authority to enforce in the U.S. Postal Service the rights of veterans as provided in Title 5, United States Code and in the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose the use by the Postal Service of the system, termed OPTEX, unless all five point veterans be afforded the opportunity to compete by examination for all Postal Service jobs.

Res No: 438 (New Mexico). Consolidated with Res. 19 (Utah), 86 (Maine), 99 (Oklahoma), 150 (Texas), 172 (Pennsylvania), 225 (Indiana), 271 (Iowa), and 337 (Massachusetts).

Subject: **Support Veterans Preference**

WHEREAS, A grateful nation has, following each war, indicated its thanks to those who bore the battle by providing certain rights and benefits, one of which has been a small advantage when seeking Federal employment and in retention of that employment; and

WHEREAS, Absence from the highly competitive job market creates an unfair and unequal burden on veterans, upon completion of their military service, in competing with their non-veteran peers, who did not serve in time of war, which this preference in Federal employment is intended to partly overcome; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion strongly support veterans preference in Federal, State and Local employment as provided by a grateful nation, and oppose any effort to reduce this preference.

Received and Recorded Resolutions

The following Resolutions were received and recorded:

Res No: 29 (Colorado) Subject: **Veteran Employment Programs**

Res No: 194 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Urge the Secretary of Labor to Conduct a Complete Review of the Policy and Programmatic Decision Making Process within the Department of Labor as it Affects Veterans**

Res No: 188 (Wisconsin) Subject: **National Veterans Training Institute**

Res No: 192 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Support Veterans Preference in Federal Employment**

Res No: 277 (Wisconsin) Subject: **National Veterans Training Institute**

Res No: 20 (Utah) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 97 (Oklahoma) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 151 (Texas) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 170 (Pennsylvania) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 195 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 223 (Indiana) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 335 (Massachusetts) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Res No: 432 (New Mexico) Subject: **Validity Generalization**

Rejected Resolutions

The following Resolutions were rejected:

Res No: 63 (North Carolina) Subject: **Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERS)**

Res No: 98 (Oklahoma) Subject: **The Ready Reserve and National Guard for Special Consideration in Employment Service Assistance**

Res No: 148 (Texas) Subject: **The Ready Reserve and National Guard for Special Consideration in Employment Service Assistance**

Res No: 174 (Pennsylvania) Subject:**Amend the Hatch Act so that Veterans in Civil Service Employment may be Allowed to Seek Political Office in the Communities that they Reside**

Referred Resolutions

The following Resolutions were referred:

Res No: 58 (North Carolina) Subject: **Federal Contractor Mandatory Listing Program**

Res No: 468 (California) Subject: **The Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training (ASVET) and the Department of Labor**

Res No: 156 (Texas) Subject: **Veterans' Vocational Training and Retraining Entitlement Service**

Res No: 92 (Oklahoma) Subject: **Veterans Program Managers in Federal Employment**

Res No: 155 (Texas) Subject: **Veterans Program Managers in Federal Employment**

COMMITTEE ON OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS

James A. McMahon (Maine), Chairman

Forty-two (42) members of the Committee on Other Economic Matters met in joint session with the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference and considered three (3) Resolutions, of which one (1) is recommended for approval and two (2) are received and recorded.

Approved Resolutions

Res No: 472 (Convention Committee).

Subject: **Supplemental Income Source for the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program**

WHEREAS, During the past 44 years, the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program has provided nearly 13 million veterans with the opportunity to own their own homes, thereby assisting not only the veteran, but the home building industry and the national economy as well; and

WHEREAS, A small number of veteran homeowners default on their VA guaranteed loans, resulting in the VA either paying off the statutory guaranty or acquiring the property through the offering of "vendee" loans on which it subsequently sells; and

WHEREAS, The VA Home Loan Program is, by its very nature, a veterans benefit; and

WHEREAS, Program deficits, prior to 1984, were offset by rising inflation in home prices or by supplemental funding from VA Direct Loan Program income; and

WHEREAS, High inflation and rising interest rates, as well as national and regional recessions have generated increasing deficits in the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion reaffirm its strong commitment to a viable VA Home Loan Guaranty Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek Congressional and/or administrative action which would develop and maintain supplemental income sources, such as portfolios of Direct and Vendee loans, sufficient to generate income to support periodic deficits incurred by the Home Loan Guaranty Program.

Received and Recorded Resolutions

Res No: 175 (Ohio) Subject: **V.A. Loan Assumption**
Res No: 167 (Pennsylvania) Subject: **Buy American Program**

ECONOMICS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THIESEN: Mr. Commander, that concludes the report of the Convention Committee on Economics.

Mr. Commander, as a Delegate from the Department of California, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The Motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair now recognizes Mr. George Boucek of Illinois, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Finance for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

George W. Boucek (IL) Chairman

Mr. Commander and Members of the Convention, this is the report of the Convention Committee on Finance. We have forty-two members.

Forty-two (42) members met at the Commonwealth Convention Center—Room 104, at 9:00 a.m., September 4, 1988, Louisville, Kentucky.

Paul M. Allen (Minnesota), National Finance Director, opened the meeting as liaison representative and announced that nominations were in order for Chairman and Secretary. George W. Boucek (Illinois) was elected Chairman, and Anthony J. Minei (New York) was elected Secretary, by unanimous vote.

The Chairman recognized National Treasurer Webber LaGrange (Indiana) who gave the Committee his economic and financial report.

The Chairman then introduced Daniel S. Wheeler (Virginia), Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of The American Legion Magazine. Mr. Wheeler introduced Milford A. Forrester (South Carolina), Chairman of the Magazine Commission and representatives from Fox Associates, Inc., who are our magazine advertising agents. Mr. Wheeler reported, even though paper price has gone up $1,000,000, he is expecting a magazine surplus of $900,000, which is $200,000 more than originally projected. A big factor for this is our increase in advertising income. Chairman Boucek expressed his appreciation of the organization for the excellent work and the fine financial results that the Magazine Commission, under Chairman Forrester and Publisher Wheeler, have accomplished for our National Organization.

Chairman Boucek reported that the Certified Audit shows a surplus of $349,814 for the year ending December 31, 1987. And incidentally, that appears in your Convention book report, the entire audit report. He also informed the Committee, it appears we might have a small deficit in 1988.

Motion was made by Neal S. Sundeen(Arizona) that the per capita dues for 1989 remain at $5.50—$2.50 for The American Legion Magazine; 25 cents for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and $2.75 for the General Fund. H.E. (Red) Thibault (Nebraska) seconded the Motion and it was unanimously carried. There will be no dues increase for 1989.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

This completes our report, Mr. Commander, and I make a motion that the same be adopted.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair now recognizes William Detweiler of Louisiana, Chairman of the National Convention Commission on Foreign Relations for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
William Detweiler (LA) Chairman

Mr. Commander, your committee on Foreign Relations of the National Convention Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 4, 1988, 59 delegates and alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations met initially in Room 209 of the Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. William Detweiler (Louisiana) was elected Chairman and Mr. Arturo T. Benavides (Texas) was appointed Secretary.

Following this initial meeting, the six Convention Subcommittees met in separate locations to consider the Resolutions which had been assigned to them. Their recommended action is carried in the initial portion of this report. The following were appointed Chairmen:

A.J. Forestiere, Arkansas, Chairman, General Foreign Policy
George T. Lewis, Tennessee, Chairman, African Affairs
Donald S. Houser, Virginia, Chairman, European Affairs
Keith Baker, Iowa, Chairman, Far Eastern Affairs
David S. Lusby, District of Columbia, Chairman, Inter-American Affairs
Edmund A. Zachman, Ohio, Chairman, Middle Eastern Affairs

At 2:30 p.m. on September 4, the Delegates again assembled in Room 209 of the Commonwealth Convention Center for a final meeting of the Convention Committee of Foreign Relations. Reports of all Convention Subcommittees were read and their recommended action on Resolutions considered. A total of 73 Resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee originated 2 other Resolutions.

The following subcommittee reports contain Resolutions which will, in conjunction with Resolutions previously adopted, provide an effective and viable foreign relations program for The American Legion. That program will fully support a strong and dynamic U.S. foreign policy to promote democracy around the world and discharge American responsibilities as leader of the Free World in the continuing struggle to defend and promote liberty and resist Soviet imperialism.

. . . I now call upon A.J. Forestiere, Arkansas to give us a report of the Subcommittee on General Foreign Policy.

GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY

A.J. FORESTIERE, ARKANSAS, CHAIRMAN: This is the report of the General Foreign Policy Subcommittee.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res No: 414 (Maryland) Subject: **Freedom of The Seas**

WHEREAS, Through American history, our nation has emphasized maintaining its rights to freedom of navigation in international waters and has fought wars over this vital issue; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades the United States has experienced several serious incidents hindering its rights to navigation in international waters and bringing death or injury to many brave American seamen; and

WHEREAS, Such incidents include the attack on the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1968, the seizure of the U.S. Mayaguez in 1975, and the attack on the U.S.S. Stark in 1987; and

WHEREAS, The United States and its allies are currently engaged in a major naval effort to assert rights of free navigation in the Persian Gulf; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should exercise U.S. rights to unhindered navigation in international waters whenever necessary to protect

U.S. national interests and U.S. international commercial interests as a great maritime and trading nation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in conducting such operations, the U.S. Government should use an adequate and effective force fully capable of self-defense, obtain allied cooperation as appropriate, take retaliatory action against foreign interference, and treat any members of the armed forces killed or injured in such duty (and their survivors) with the utmost honor, support, and compassion.

Res No: 418 (Maryland) Subject: **Terrorism**

WHEREAS, International state terrorism is becoming increasingly prevalent, impeding civilized conduct and causing target states to restrict the lives of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government and American interests at home and abroad are increasingly becoming terrorist targets; and

WHEREAS, To make concessions to terrorists or alter policy as the result of terrorist actions, although possibly expedient in the short run, invites even more terrorist actions in the long run; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it strongly urges the U.S. Government to assign the highest priority to combating terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the news media be solicited to exercise responsibility and restraint in recounting acts of terrorism in order to reduce their propaganda effect and to report those claiming responsibility only after the proper law enforcement agencies have apprehended the perpetrators.

Res No: 417 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **United Nations**

WHEREAS, The United Nations has frequently failed to achieve its basic purpose of maintaining international peace and security, and politization of some UN activities has drastically reduced the UN's effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some UN special programs; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations continues to be effective by coordinating international cooperation in some functional areas (such as refugee relief, meteorology, and cooperation of radio frequency use); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations would very likely result in the United Nations becoming an unchecked anti-U.S. propaganda arena for the Soviet Union and the Third World; and

WHEREAS, Many Soviet diplomats and diplomats from Soviet-bloc nations at the UN are intelligence agents principally engaged in stealing technological secrets from the U.S., making the United Nations a base for foreign espionage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient UN operations consistent with the UN Charter's stated purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration to continue to take necessary action to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations.

Res No: 419 (Maryland) Subject: **United States Foreign Policy**

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, as veterans of wartime service in the defense of liberty, have a special concern for maintaining peace with freedom and recognize that a strong U.S. foreign policy is vital in that regard; and

WHEREAS, The official concern of The American Legion stems from that part of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion which states: "We associate ourselves together . . . to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy . . . "; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we believe that the objectives of U.S.

foreign policy must be to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy and resisting Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. foreign policy must embody the following principles:

1. Implementation of a strong bipartisan foreign policy, reflecting America's responsibilities as leader of the Free World and true to our heritage and traditions.

2. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.

3. Active promotion of democracy.

4. Realization that the Soviet Union seeks world domination and is conducting an "undeclared war" against the Free World, using a variety of means ranging from propaganda to armed aggression.

5. Participation in collective security alliances provided our allies contribute their fair share.

6. Provision and maintenance of economic, military, and humanitarian assistance to friendly nations to promote U.S. interests.

7. Support for strategically important resistance movements struggling against totalitarianism.

8. Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improve U.S. national security by increasing the stability of nuclear deterrent forces.

9. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking, which challenge the civilized world.

10. Support for responsible international organizations that are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.

11. Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.

12. Recognition that the world operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interest.

13. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while the Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

Res No: 420 (Maryland) Subject: **Bipartisan Foreign Policy**

WHEREAS, President Dwight Eisenhower in an address to our organization in 1954 said, "To help keep America strong—to help keep her secure—to help guide her on the true path to peace, there is no group better qualified than you of The American Legion."; and

WHEREAS, From 1941 until the mid-1960s the United States conducted an extremely successful foreign policy based on bipartisan agreement concerning foreign policy objectives and methods of operations and the primacy of the President in conducting foreign policy as envisioned by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, During that period, our bipartisan foreign policy played a major role in defeating the Axis powers, assisted Western Europe and Japan in becoming staunch democratic allies, halted the spread of communism, and established a series of political and economic agreements which enabled an unprecedented expansion of world trade to the benefit of all free nations; and

WHEREAS, Starting in the mid-1960s, the U.S. bipartisan consensus on foreign policy gradually eroded and Congress increasingly asserted legislative primacy in foreign relations. These undesirable developments led to U.S. desertion of some allies; expansion of Soviet influence and military power in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; weakening of U.S. will and capabilities to lead the Free World in defense of its way of life; and increasing dissension among the U.S. and its allies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it firmly urges the President and the Congress to reestablish a long-term, comprehensive bipartisan consensus on foreign policy goals and methods of operations and to restore the primacy of the President to his rightful constitutional powers as chief architect of foreign policy.

Res No: 421 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Foreign Aid**

WHEREAS, Since World War II the United States has effectively used foreign aid as an important means of achieving national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, Economic assistance has helped improve economic growth in many lesser developed countries and created employment opportunities for Americans by opening new markets for U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, Humanitarian assistance has provided life-sustaining aid to millions of needy people; and

WHEREAS, Security assistance has aided friendly nations in improving their military capabilities, thereby helping meet the increasing worldwide Soviet military threat; and

WHEREAS, Compared to other types of spending, the U.S. foreign aid program is relatively modest (it represents less than 2% of the federal budget); and

WHEREAS, In 1983, the Commission on Security and Economic Assistance appointed by the President and chaired by Mr. Frank Carlucci, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, concluded: "On balance . . . U.S. assistant programs make an indispensable contribution to achieving foreign policy objectives"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. foreign national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military security; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will endeavor to increase public awareness of how foreign aid serves U.S. national interests.

Res No: 422 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **The Information War**

WHEREAS, Hundreds of millions of people in many countries do not have access to objective news reports, lack accurate information about democracy, free enterprise, and American life and are subjected to extensive communist propaganda and disinformation; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union greatly outspends the United States in information activities, broadcasting in 80 languages to 42 for the Voice of America; and

WHEREAS, Funding for the U.S. Information Agency has been seriously reduced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States Government should provide adequate funds to increase and expand its current efforts in developing an effective international program to provide other nations objective news, information about the blessings of the free enterprise system, and accurate reporting of communism's suppression of freedom and international aggression.

Res No: 423 (Maryland) Subject: **Aiding Freedom Fighters**

WHEREAS, Freedom fighers seeking democracy are fighting imposed Marxist-Leninist control in several nations; and

WHEREAS, Freedom fighters desperately need modern weapons to combat overwhelming firepower provided directly or indirectly by the Soviets; and

WHEREAS, If adequately supplied and trained freedom fighters could establish governments based on democratic principles and seeking a better life for their citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support the provision of adequate U.S. training, military equipment, and humanitarian aid to foreign national freedom fighters who:

1. Seem capable of replacing or moderating an imposed Marxist-Leninist regime.
2. Pursue policies consistent with U.S. national interests.
3. Are operating in a country having significant importance to U.S. national interests.

Res No: 424 (Maryland) Subject: **Nuclear Proliferation**

WHEREAS, The nuclear club now includes six nations: the United States (1945), Soviet Union (1949), Great Britain (1952), France (1960), People's Republic of China (1969), and India (1974); and

WHEREAS, Several other nations are believed to be very close to possessing nuclear weapons, and many other nations will acquire the knowledge to manufacture nuclear weapons in coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear proliferation is contrary to U.S. national interests because the spread of nuclear weapons will complicate national strategic planning, impede arms control, and increase the possibility of nuclear weapons being used for terrorism or blackmail; and

WHEREAS, Several desirable, but imperfect, steps have been taken to prevent nuclear proliferation, including: International Atomic Energy Agency (1957), to promote and regulate peaceful uses of nuclear power; Nonproliferation Treaty (1970), to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; and U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, to ensure U.S. nuclear exports are used for peaceful purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation, and that we will inform our membership and the American people about this crucial topic.

Res No: 425 (Maryland) Subject: **Representatives of Foreign Governments**

WHEREAS, The Foreign Relations Commission has completed a detailed study of foreign representation to the Congress of the United States. The study revealed that in Washington, D.C., as of 1986, there were over 8,000 registered lobbyists representing businesses, associations, foreign entities and foreign governments. Of these, more than 900 were active in making the views of foreign entities and foreign governments known to Congress, and they were assisted by up to 7,600 support personnel; and

WHEREAS, In July 1986, the United States General Accounting Office completed a study entitled, "Foreign Representation: Former Higher Level Federal Officials Representing Foreign Interests." The study revealed that, during Fiscal Years 1980-1985, a total of 44 former senior Federal government officials and 32 former members of Congress and congressional staffs had become lobbyists for foreign governments or other foreign entities. (These former members of Congress have the privilege of the floor in the Senate or House as a result of their former service.); and

WHEREAS, As a result of its study, the Foreign Relations Commission is of the opinion that such individuals exercise undue influence on U.S. foreign and domestic policies to the benefit of foreign nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we express our concern about the major role of former senior government officials or former Members of Congress serving as foreign representatives; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose such undue influence and urge appropriate action to control such practices, including post-employment restrictions, prohibitions on use of nonpublic information concerning U.S. Government negotiating positions, restriction on floor privileges, and stronger reporting requirements.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Res No: 465 (California) Subject: **Terrorism**

REJECTED

Res No: 259 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Land Sales to Foreign Governments**

Res No: 448 (California) Subject: **Non-U.S. Citizens Ownership Of Property**

Res No: 463 (California) Subject: **The Council On Foreign Relations, The Trilateral Commission, The Bilderbergers, and The Club of Rome**

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FORESTIERE: Mr. Commander, that concludes the report of the General Foreign Policy.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THIESEN: For the purpose of the report of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, George T. Lewis, Chairman, Tennessee.

. . . George T. Lewis, Tennessee, Chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs presented the following:

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res No: 410 (Maryland) Subject: **South Africa**

WHEREAS, We recognize that South Africa is going through great unrest, which is challenging its political and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, It is not U.S. policy to interfere in the internal affairs of any country; and

WHEREAS, Sanctions as imposed by the Congress are traditionally ineffective and usually bring about the opposite effect than that desired; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is concerned that a nation with a long record of friendship for the United States, and which is strategically located, is having to experience such turmoil; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the U.S. Government to adopt a policy toward South Africa of supporting moderates who seek equality and representative democracy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should respect the sovereignty of the Government of South Africa by recognizing that the problem of South Africa in dismantling apartheid is primarily one that must be solved by the South Africans themselves.

Res No: 413 (Maryland) Subject: **Namibia**

WHEREAS, The role of the United Nations as mediator in the Namibian stalemate was jeopardized when the U.N., ignoring the voice of the internal population, recognized SWAPO as the "sole and authentic" representative of the people of Namibia; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations have been underway for several years among the Western Contract Group (U.S., Canada, France, West Germany, and Britain), concerned African States, the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO), and the Republic of South Africa concerning the future of Namibia; and

WHEREAS, Cuban troops in Angola, which increased from 30,000 in 1984 to 40,000 in 1986 and to higher levels in 1988, and the influx of sophisticated Soviet military equipment into neighboring Angola, continue to project an unwanted Marxist presence in the region; and

WHEREAS, The interim Government of National Unity in Namibia has made great strides in the field of human rights, and also the overcoming of party political struggles and ethnic and sectional competition as a result of the overwhelming need for national unity, and has also invited SWAPO to participate in the process of obtaining meaningful independence; and

WHEREAS, A peaceful, prosperous multi-racial Namibia free of Soviet domination is of considerable importance to the U.S., because of Namibia's strategic location and mineral wealth; and

WHEREAS, The South African government declared itself willing to commence with the implementation of U.N. Resolution 435 on August 1, 1986, provided only that an agreement has been reached on a program for the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola, by means of negotiation by all parties concerned; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support increased efforts to bring about a negotiated agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to South Africa, the U.S. and also the population of the country, an agreement providing for free, fair and representative elections, and the withdrawal of South African forces and the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

Res No: 415 (Maryland) Subject: **Mozambique**

WHEREAS, The Soviets' push for success to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean is relentless, particularly in the Seychelles, Mozambique and Madagascar; and

WHEREAS, The Mozambique government has shown an inability to quell the insurgency of the National Resistance of Mozambique (RENAMO); and

WHEREAS, Moscow has provided over one billion dollars in military aid, including significant deliveries of MI-24/HIND helicopters, FT-76 light tanks, BTR-60 APCs, artillery pieces, MB-24 multiple rocket launchers, minesweepers, and patrol boats; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of Soviet advisors and technicians are heavily involved in planning and supporting Mozambique operations against RENAMO; and

WHEREAS, U.S. State Department initiatives seeking better relations with the government of Mozambique have been unsuccessful; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should cease and desist in its efforts to approach the Government of Mozambique and, instead, concentrate on encouragement of the National Resistance of Mozambique (RENAMO), while urging RENAMO to practice internationally accepted standards of warfare.

Res No: 416 (Maryland) Subject: **Angola**

WHEREAS, Angola, under the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) regime, has continued existence as a surrogate state of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has shown great strength in recent years; and

WHEREAS, The leader of UNITA has demonstrated commendable leadership and initiatives which seem to indicate that, if successful, the government of Angola under UNITA would be a state independent of outside interests, with protection of human rights and a viable government not based on Marxist concepts and practices; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have great interests in Luanda Harbor, one of the largest and best harbors on the west coast of Africa, and the main support base for the Soviet's West African patrol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States support strongly the UNITA movement with military weapons and other means to secure freedom from Soviet and Cuban control of Angola.

Mr. Commander, we want to thank the nine members of the African Affairs Committee who worked with us, this completes the Subcommittee's report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: For the purpose of the presentation of the Resolutions considered on European Affairs, Donald S. Houser, Chairman, Virginia.

REPORT OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman Donald S. Houser presented the following report:

Res No: 70 (Ohio) as amended and consolidated with Res. 214 (IN) and Res. 462 (CA) Subject: **Bering Straits Islands**

WHEREAS, The American Legion vigorously opposed State Department negotiations leading to the transfer of the American Canal in Panama to a totalitarian, pro-communist regime; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. State Department has been negotiating with the Soviet Union to transfer, and cede to, the USSR, five strategic American islands in the Chukchi Sea, northwest of Alaska, along with the American portion of the Navarian Basin; and

WHEREAS, The five islands, Wrangell, Bennett, Henrietta, Jeannette, and Herald, were discovered and claimed by U.S. Government expeditions in the period 1855 to 1881; and

WHEREAS, Czarist Russian and International Boundary Authorities long have recognized U.S. sovereignty and claims to the islands; and

WHEREAS, The five islands are located astride the sea route from Soviet northern ports to the Far East; and

WHEREAS, Geologists and U.S. oil companies estimate this continental shelf area contains some 25 billion barrels of oil reserves; and

WHEREAS, A former U.S. National Security Advisor indicated that the Wrangell Island dispute is part of the negotiating package at the Geneva Arms talks; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States, Article 4, Section 3, paragraph 2, requires both Houses of Congress to approve the disposal of U.S. territory; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in

Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it vigorously opposes the transfer of any of the following islands (Wrangell, Bennett, Henrietta, Jeannette, Herald) to the Soviet Union as part of an arms agreement or any other treaty or accord.

Res No: 308 (Virginia) Subject: **Strategic Nuclear Policy**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has greatly expanded its nuclear capabilities and achieved at least rough nuclear strategic equivalence with the United States, which, until recently, has seriously neglected modernization of its nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years, recognized the utility of equitable arms control measures and, accordingly, has supported arms control measures which did provide for effective, unalterable guarantees for compliance, including on-site inspections by both sides; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support:

1. A United States nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.
2. Continuation of United States underground nuclear testing as necessary to modernize nuclear offensive and defensive forces and to ensure the reliability of existing nuclear weapons.
3. Verifiable implementation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
4. Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the United States to equal levels, resulting in stable mutual deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war.
5. Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include on-site inspection by both sides.
6. Full integration of nuclear arms control into national security planning by the United States and its allies to ensure strategic stability and credible deterrence.

Res No: 406 (Maryland) Subject: **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has for many years recognized the utility of equitable arms control agreements which enhance national security, the survivability of nuclear weapons, and the stability of the US-USSR nuclear balance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion also has called for effective, unalterable guarantees for compliance, including on-site verification inspections by both sides; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Soviet Union have engaged in Strategic Arms Reduction Talks intermittently for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, In order for the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to maintain credible deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact across the entire spectrum of military conflict, the reduction of U.S. and NATO nuclear capabilities by START must be designed in conjunction with US-NATO objectives, strategy, force structure, and deployments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), including a 50% reduction to equal levels in strategic offensive arms, provided the treaty is equal, verifiable, and enhances the security of the United States and its allies; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Strategic Defense Initiative must not be traded as a bargaining chip; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That adequate steps must be taken to maintain credible deterrence and war-fighting capability across the entire spectrum of conflict: nuclear, conventional, and chemical.

Res No: 407 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has for many years recognized the utility of equitable arms control agreements which enhance national security, the survivability of nuclear weapons, and the stability of the US-USSR nuclear balance; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Soviet Union signed the INF Treaty in December, 1987, following six years of intermittent negotiations; and

WHEREAS, The treaty obligates both sides to eliminate all ground-launched ballistic and ground-launched cruise missile systems with a range between 500-5,000 kilometers (approximately 300-3,400 miles) and permits both sides to carry out verification measures to monitor compliance; and

WHEREAS, The treaty implements the "zero option" proposed by the United States in 1981, and thus represents a U.S. initiative to eliminate approximately 4% of the superpowers' nuclear capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The reductions are asymmetrical in favor of the United States since the Soviet Union would eliminate missiles capable of carrying 1,667 warheads while the United States would eliminate missiles carrying only 429 warheads; and

WHEREAS, For the first time, nuclear weapons would actually be eliminated by treaty (SALT I and II only provide upper ceilings for weapons production); and

WHEREAS, The treaty calls for on-site inspections of a very intrusive nature, as long urged by The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. government has accused the Soviet Union of violating many previous arms control agreements; therefore, the INF Treaty can be viewed as one last chance for the Soviet Union to prove that it will abide by a treaty's provisions; and

WHEREAS, The United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) must maintain adequate deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact across the entire spectrum of military capabilities; therefore, the reduction of NATO's nuclear capabilities by the INF Treaty must be offset by future military planning and diplomatic negotiations to achieve maintenance of nuclear, chemical, and conventional deterrence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support the INF Treaty, while urging the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal Government to develop a coordinated bipartisan national security policy to ensure continued deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact in the nuclear, chemical, and conventional fields in cooperation with our NATO allies.

Res No: 408 (Maryland) Subject: **Turkey**

WHEREAS, The security of the United States largely depends on the maintenance of freedom in Western Europe, which has endured for more than 35 years under the Atlantic Alliance; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that this alliance be preserved through good relations and reasonable support of true friends in the region; and

WHEREAS, In addition to other necessary actions, particularly notable and worthy, is the support of Turkey continuing as a vital part of NATO through a Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement between our two countries; and

WHEREAS, Turkey has demonstrated its friendship through consistently opposing communism and guarding the southern flank of NATO; and

WHEREAS, Turkey requires modernization of its military forces which number some 600,000 men under arms, but have the oldest equipment in NATO. Yet there is a potential in Congress to attach restrictions, such as certification by the President on the Greek/Cypriot problem to aid for Turkey, which the national pride of that nation may find objectionable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense of Economic Cooperation Agreement, without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and urge that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States.

Res No: 409 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Halting The Technology Flow To The Soviet Bloc**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union uses a variety of means to obtain advanced military technology from U.S. universities, defense contractors, government agencies, and business firms; and

RESOLVED, The ill-gotten technology enables the Soviet Union to save money on its military build-up and equip its armed forces with advanced weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the Defense, Commerce, and State Departments jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the illegal flow of technology to any foreign country; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as a minimum, the program must include:

1. The reclassification of important technology secrets so as to prevent open disclosure of information vital to our national security.
2. More stringent export licensing controls and mandatory tracing of all sensitive technology equipment to ensure it reaches the proper destination; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Commerce Department is urged to strengthen enforcement of their regulations by requiring the presentation of Shippers Export Declarations to Customs prior to loading the cargo for export from the United States of America; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we petition Congress to fund and adequately staff the U.S. Customs Service, which has the task of enforcing the export controls and examining commodities and technical data intended for export from the United States of America.

Res No: 409 (Maryland) Subject: **Canada**

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have been at peace for over 200 years and have the longest arms-free border in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada were allies in World War I and II and Korea and continue military cooperation in NATO and the North American Air and Space Defense Command; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have the largest bilateral trade of any two nations in the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Canada have signed a free trade agreement which is currently being considered for ratification by their respective legislatures; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both nations.

Res No: 412 (Maryland) Subject: **Poland**

WHEREAS, The country of Poland, an American ally during World War II, has been working for greater social and economic reform and independence from the totalitarian system imposed by the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Polish Solidarity workers have insisted on the right to strike and bargain collectively, which is contrary to Leninism and Soviet Communism; and

WHEREAS, Numerous factions in Poland, such as farmers, factory workers, students and intellectuals, have asserted their right to exercise self-determination of their own lives now; and

WHEREAS, Polish communist secret police have terrorized Solidarity leaders, members of the Roman Catholic Church, and political prisoners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we encourage democracy for Poland's citizens and we oppose colonial exploitation by the Soviet Union of Poland.

Res No: 513 (Committee) as consolidated with Res. 305 (VA) Subject: **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has preserved peace and stability in Europe for almost forty years now; and

WHEREAS, Membership in NATO serves U.S. interests; and

WHEREAS, Forward defense is a fundamental requirement for NATO strategy and political solidarity; and

WHEREAS, The prospective Conventional Stability Talks give promise of asymmetrical Warsaw Pact force reductions and improved stability in Europe; and

WHEREAS, Unilateral U.S. reductions in its forward deployed forces in Europe would undercut NATO's bargaining position in the Conventional Stability Talks, vitiate forward defense, undermine allies' confidence in the U.S. commitment to NATO; increase the risks to U.S. forces remaining forward deployed; and increase near-term costs to the United States at a time of great pressure on the U.S. budget; and

WHEREAS, Action such as the recent decision by the Italian government to station the U.S. Air Force 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, which will be leaving Spain at the request of the Spanish Government, and the decision by NATO to fund forces to the Persian Gulf demonstrate resolve to face up to challenges to Alliance Security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States government to maintain the forward deployment of U.S. troops in NATO and not to reduce them except in the context of agreement with NATO and of Warsaw Pact force reductions achieved through the upcoming Conventional Stability Talks; and,

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to encourage our NATO allies to continue to improve their conventional forces and take those actions necessary to meet any threats to the security and stability of Europe and areas of common interest outside the North Atlantic Treaty area.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the European Affairs report.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: For the purpose of the presentation of the Resolutions considered on Far Eastern Affairs, Keith Baker, Chairman of Iowa.

FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

. . . Subcommittee Chairman Keith Baker, Iowa, submitted the following report:

Res No: 119 (Illinois) as amended Subject: **Missing Service Personnel Act**

WHEREAS, The present law governing "Missing Persons" was hastily written in 1942, at a time when the USA had large numbers of service and civilian personnel missing in action; and

WHEREAS, It is a grave injustice not to properly account for our service personnel and other American citizens who have remained missing at the conclusion of any military engagement with hostile forces; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced to the U.S. Congress to ensure that any member of the uniformed service or any civilian employee of the uniformed services accompanying an armed force in the field in time of war or armed conflict is fully accounted for by the Federal Government and may not be declared dead solely because of the passage of time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports legislation that would disallow the passage of time as the sole basis of a death declaration.

Res No: 123 (Alaska) as amended Subject: **Military Sales to The Republic Of China (Taiwan)**

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist regime on mainland China has never ruled out the use of force against the Republic of China on Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Communist leaders have repeatedly stated that military force will be used if the Republic of China on Taiwan does not voluntarily reunite under the Communist regime; and

WHEREAS, News reports in January, 1988, indicated that the Chinese Communist regime has drawn plans to militarily invade Taiwan, so as to force Taiwan to unite with Mainland China under a Communist system; and

WHEREAS, Said invasion would start with a total blockade of Taiwan's five major

ports; followed by airborne invasion; assassinations; sabotage; attacks on airports, bases, and radar installations; and amphibious landings; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan requires modern weapons, aircraft, and military technology to counter threats of blockade and invasion; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (United States Public Law 96-8) states: "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports the defense provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act and urged the United States government to make available to the Republic of China such defense articles, services, and technology to enable the Republic of China to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability.

Res No: 124 (Alaska) Subject: **Republic of China**

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan has recently instituted political and economic reforms, designed to increase popular participation in governmental affairs, as well as to liberalize and promote economic relations with other countries, especially the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China is the fifth-largest trading partner of the United States and is serving as a free enterprise model of economic and political development for countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa, based on its own development experience; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China is a strategically located nation with a strong military force, which has much to contribute to the maintenance of peace, stability, security, and freedom in the Far East, an area of vital importance to the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since the Republic of China was expelled from the United Nations in 1972 in favor of the Chinese Communist regime, official international relations carried on by the Republic of China have deteriorated substantially; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist regime has attempted to isolate the Republic of China diplomatically for over two decades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports international economic, military, and political cooperation with the Republic of China and urges the United States government to take necessary measures to increase participation by the Republic of China in international organizations.

Res No: 125 (Alaska) as amended Subject: **Republic Of Korea**

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and to the defense and stability of the Pacific and Asian regions; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea, concerning aviation, consular affairs, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce and especially the Mutual Defense Treaty which was entered into force on November 17, 1954; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has recently broadened its military assistance and increased its awesome presence in North Korea in an unveiled attempt to reassert its sphere of influence and widen its military and political advantage in northeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, North Korea maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of launching offensive operations on short notice and has never renounced the use of military force as a means to attain its goal of bringing the entire Korean Peninsula under Communist domination; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea's proposal for "The Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification" of January 22, 1982, is the most feasible, rational and well-intentioned plan heretofore proposed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea's refusal to enter into dialogue concerning the peaceful reunification plan is based solely on their continued illusion that reunification may be accomplished only through use of their superior military power, of which they continue to boast; and

WHEREAS, The intent of North Korea to use military force against the Republic of

Korea has often been manifested by continual infiltration of armed agents into the Republic of Korea and the construction of many tunnels under the DMZ which provide the capability of moving large contingents of military personnel and equipment into the Republic of Korea unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has completed redeployment of corps-sized artillery, armor and mechanized infantry units and amassed at least 100,000 commandos in close proximity to the Demilitarized Zone; and

WHEREAS, The redeployment and buildup by North Korea considerably reduces the warning time previously enjoyed by Korean and U.S. forces and poses a serious threat to the security of Korea through expected armed provocations against Seoul in a bid to sabotage the 1988 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a large contingent of United States ground and air forces in the Republic of Korea serves as a real deterrent to North Korea to precipitate aggression; and,

WHEREAS, North Korea has been constructing the Kum Kang Dam in North Korea that would have a damaging effect on the environment and the ecology of the Han River Basin and seriously interrupt the flow of water into South Korea. Once fully constructed and filled with twenty billion tons of water, the dam would constitute a weapon of devastating destructive power aimed at the heartland of South Korea. The dam (if breached) would flood the Han River Basin and the capital, Seoul, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives and the destruction of billions of dollars worth of property. It could be used to blackmail South Korea; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States to increase its military and economic aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian regions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States provide a strong, flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the United States bring pressure to bear on communist North Korea to give up the construction of the dam.

Res No: 126 (Alaska) as amended and consolidated with Res. 405 (MD) Subject: **Military Sales To Mainland China**

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist regime on mainland China has recently sold large quantities of Silkworm missiles to the Iranian government, which has resulted in the loss of life through continuation of the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Military and industrial technology used to manufacture the Silkworm missiles was derived from Soviet technology transfers; and

WHEREAS, The United States has agreed to transfer to the Chinese Communist regime military equipment and technology, including highly sophisticated airborne radar and fire control systems, which could, in the future, be used against America's friends and allies in the Far East; and

WHEREAS, The United States has postponed the transfers of said items, because of the sale of Silkworm missiles by the Chinese Communists to Iran; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States government to refrain from the transfer of military and dual-use equipment and technology to the Chinese Communists.

Res No: 294 (Michigan) as amended Subject: **United Nations Action on POW/MIA Issue**

WHEREAS, The United Nations has repeatedly recognized the Geneva Convention as an instrument designed to protect fundamental human rights; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly on December 4, 1970, by Resolution, called upon all parties to any armed conflict to comply with the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of Prisoners of War so as to ensure humane treatment of all persons entitled to the protection of the Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, An initiative focusing on Article I of the Geneva Convention, regarding the legal obligations of all signatories to the Convention holds promise of increasing pressure for compliance; and

WHEREAS, An initiative focusing on Article I of the Geneva Convention, regarding the legal obligations of all signatories to the Convention holds promise of increasing pressure for compliance; and

WHEREAS, The crime of limited disclosure of information regarding the American POW/MIAs perpetrated by North Vietnam has been allowed to exist only because the duties of some signatories have been unfulfilled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States government to serve notice that unless the United Nations is able to secure a satisfactory accounting of our POWs and MIAs, the United States will reduce its share of the United Nations budget from the current 25% to 10%; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this proposal be provided to all members of the United States Congress.

Res No: 303 (Virginia) Subject: **Dealing With Vietnam On The POW/MIA Issue**

WHEREAS, We recognize that the POW/MIA issue is one of grave concern and have supported all efforts to obtain information regarding these Americans, however, we believe the idea of giving diplomatic recognition to Vietnam before satisfactory resolution of the POW/MIA issues would be blackmail and an insult to all who died and suffered in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, We continue to support the United States Government vigorous efforts to secure a full accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Vietnam War, short of providing any recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we strongly oppose any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning our POW/MIAs.

Res No: 304 (Virginia) as amended and consolidated with Res. 175 (PA) and Res. 252 (GA) Subject: **POW/MIA**

WHEREAS, There are currently approximately 2,300 Americans still prisoner, missing, or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; and

WHEREAS, The families of those missing United States servicemen and civilians still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to lack of an adequate accounting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States Government to continue assigning highest priority to resolve the status of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Indochina; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we reject any attempt by the Government of Vietnam, or others, to link resolution of the issue to political matters which divide our countries, and call upon them to honor their pledges to cooperate fully and to exert every possible effort to resolve this humanitarian issue, thereby resolving the primary bilateral obstacle to improved relations between our two peoples; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any American who may still be prisoner in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

Res No: 401 (Maryland) as consolidated with Res. 132 (NY) Subject: **Korean Conflict POW/MIAs**

WHEREAS, There are unresolved questions concerning POWs and missing in action from Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Officers of Project Freedom for POWs and MIAs, who are also Legionnaires, have developed information on possible Americans buried in unrecorded, unrecognized, and unaccounted for gravesites in Hadong and Umri, South Korea; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea has offered its good service, linguists, and laborers to exhume, transport and assist in identification of American remains; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States Government pursue resolution of unanswered questions concerning those live POWs and Missing In Action as a result of the Korean Conflict, that the United States seek the cooperation of relevant governments to help answer these questions, and that any American remains be returned for honorable burial in the land they defended, the country they served.

Res No: 402 (Maryland) Subject: **The Philippines Armed Forces**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union is engaged in aggressive initiatives in several parts of the Pacific area; and

WHEREAS, The strategic bases which fell to North Vietnam and are now being utilized by the Soviet Union and Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang are only 700 miles from the Philippines and furnish an ideal support area for the maintenance of a strong, aggressive communist insurgency in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government, supported by The American Legion, has strongly sought continued base rights at Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Force Base, as well as supporting democracy in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The growth of the well-equipped well-organized communist insurgency at the level of approximately 26,000 personnel has not received urgent attention thus far in the United States; and

WHEREAS, It may be expected that the guerilla war of the communists in the Philippines will follow a classic insurgency pattern in the future intensifying and spreading; and

WHEREAS, The armed forces of the Philippines are inadequately equipped and trained to copy with this insurgency as expressed by President Aquino's remarks, "How do you expect us to fight, with our bare hands and feet?"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States Government adopt a long-term policy supporting the armed forces of the Philippines in material and training so they can adequately counter the well-organized and well-supported communist insurgency forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That funds adequate for this purpose be appropriated.

Res No: 403 (Maryland) Subject: **Philippines**

WHEREAS, Following Commodore Dewey's 1898 victory over Spanish naval forces in Manila Bay, the Philippines became a U.S. colony and remained so until independence was granted in 1946; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Philippines fought as allies to defeat the Japanese in World War II, an experience that established many U.S.-Philippine ties, as did the relatively constructive and benign U.S. policies during the colonial era; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, many severe problems have confronted the Philippines, including an economic growth downturn, increasing foreign debt, political dissension and growing communist insurgency; and

WHEREAS, U.S. policy toward the Philippines has consistently favored democracy, economic development, and military cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Since 1947, the United States has used designated military bases in the Philippines, the latest agreement being signed in 1983 and calling for continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base for five years in exchange for $900 million in U.S. economic and military aid; and

WHEREAS, Loss of U.S. base rights for Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base would severely hamper the projection of U.S. naval and air power in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward the Philippines which will permit continued U.S. use of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, encourage the strengthening of democracy, promote economic development, and provide material aid to defeat the communist insurgency, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Philippine Government, in a spirit of friendship and comradeship, to pursue policies which will encourage democracy, economic development, national security, and continued cooperation with the United States.

Res No: 404 (Maryland) Subject: **Japan**

WHEREAS, The Soviet naval, air and ground threat in East Asia has increased greatly in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, Japan allocates only about 1% of its gross national product to defense while the United States allocates over 6%; and

WHEREAS, Japan has the economic capacity to provide a stronger self defense because Japan has developed one of the most productive economies in the world and is a major trading partner of the United States. Serious trade problems exist between Japan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Article I of the Japan constitution (adopted under the aegis of General MacArthur) prohibits Japan from having "land, sea and air forces" and using military force; furthermore, Japanese public opinion is largely pacifist; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense and to develop equitable trading practices between Japan and the United States.

Res No: 514 (Committee) Subject: **Amerasian Children In Vietnam**

WHEREAS, Amerasian children are the children of Vietnamese mothers and American fathers; and

WHEREAS, Under the Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1987, Amerasians and their close family members departing Vietnam between March 21, 1988 and March 21, 1990 may be admitted to the United States as immigrants but still receive refugee benefits; and

WHEREAS, From 1982-88 over 4,000 Amerasian children and 6,000 close family members were resettled in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Being descendants of two nationalities, Amerasian children often lead hard lives and yearn to come to the United States to live a more rewarding life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support a responsible and orderly program to bring those interested and eligible Amerasian children from Vietnam.

Rejected

Res No: 34 (Nebraska) Subject: **Prisoners Of War And The Policy Coordination And Action Group Of The American Legion**

Res No: 35 (Nebraska) Subject: **Declassification Of POW/MIA Reports**

Mr. Chairman, this completes the report of the Far Eastern Affairs Subcommittee, thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: For the report of the Inter-American Affairs Resolutions Chairman David S. Lusby of the District of Columbia.

REPORT OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

. . . Subcommittee Chairman David S. Lusby, District of Columbia, submitted the following report:

The approved Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs are as follows:

Res No: 289 (Mexico) as amended Subject: **Inter-American Development Bank**

WHEREAS, The negative balance of payments suffered by the U.S. in 1985 (148.5 billion dollars), 1986 (169.5 billion dollars), and 1987 (170 billion dollars), according to economists from the U.S. and abroad were caused by a lack of exports, and, if not corrected, could provoke a worldwide recession; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy established a trend now followed by President Reagan in his "Caribbean Basin Initiative" (CBI), for economic support in Latin America; and

WHEREAS, The "Good Neighbor Policy" of Roosevelt, the Newport Declaration of President Eisenhower, and the creation of the Interamerican Development Bank by President Kennedy have all contributed to making Latin America a major U.S. export market; and

WHEREAS, The Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) lent over 100 billion dollars to Latin America between 1961 and 1987 which resulted in the acquisition of $60 billion worth of industrial goods, $30 billion of which was produced in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The prestigious Wharton School of Economics has estimated that 50,000 jobs are created for every $1 billion of yearly export sales, these sales have resulted in the creation of 1.5 million U.S. jobs; and

WHEREAS, Recent developments in Panama, Nicaragua, Cuba, Columbia and Haiti have created an impression that the United States lacks the will to make tough political and economic decisions required to protect democracies and safeguard our population from the growing menace of drug related economies; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's 16,000 posts work together with the 12,000 units of The American Legion Auxiliary to improve the quality of their communities, especially as they labor to assist teenagers suffering from drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, A strong economic structure contributes to the development of the moral force necessary to wipe out the corruption that affects our citizens both young and old; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States government to provide ample and adequate funds for the Inter-American Development Bank, so that during the rest of this century, the IDB might make strategic, infrastructure development loans which would result in increased export sales of U.S. made goods helping eliminate our balance of trade problems, restore a non-drug based Latin America economy and restore, throughout Latin America, respect for, and confidence in our Way of Life.

Res No: 385 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Panama Canal**

WHEREAS, American ingenuity and funds coupled with hard work by thousands of Panamanians and citizens of the Caribbean islands built the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal is, and will remain, a vital seaway for U.S. commerce and naval operations; and

WHEREAS, The Panama Canal Treaties, signed on September 7, 1987 by the United States and Panama, provide for a gradual transition of the Panama Canal to Panamanian control and permanent neutrality of the canal with the U.S. retaining freedom of action to maintain the canal's neutrality; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Panama have a long record of military cooperation, effected through the U.S. Southern Command; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that:

1. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama Canal efficiently after Panama assumes control.
2. The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests.
3. Construction of a new canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. national security interests.
4. Continued U.S.-Panamanian military cooperation through the U.S. Southern Command is essential to help protect evolving democratic nations in the area and the Panama Canal.
5. The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide political stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians.

Res No: 389 (Maryland) Subject: **Costa Rica**

WHEREAS, Costa Rica, for several decades, has had a stable, democratic government providing a life of freedom for its people; and

WHEREAS, Until recently, Costa Rica has made excellent economic progress but in the past few years has experienced serious economic problems; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica, by choice, does not have any military forces; and

WHEREAS, There have been indications that Marxist subversive activity could commence in Costa Rica; now, therefore; be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States should provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should provide any type of security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system.

Res No: 390 (Maryland) Subject: **Cuba**

WHEREAS, The Kennedy-Krushchev understandings of 1962, which terminated the Cuba missile crisis, have proven to be a long-term strategic setback for the United States because they "legitimized" what has been a growing Soviet presence in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union continues to provide billions of dollars worth of aid to Cuba annually; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has provided military equipment (e.g., nuclear capable MIG-23 fighter-bombers, missile attack boats, and attack submarines) suitable for interdicting U.S. military shipments to NATO Europe in time for crisis; and

WHEREAS, Cuba has acted a Soviet surrogate in exporting revolution to Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Central America; and

WHEREAS, Soviet operations based in Cuba has grown over the last two decades to include a ground combat brigade, naval facilities, and the largest electronic collection facility outside the Soviet Union; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should be urged to continue economic sanctions against Cuba, maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, continue intelligence over flights over Cuba, and take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, or security assistance, or, as a last resort, direct U.S. military action.

Res No: 391 (Maryland) Subject: **El Salvador**

WHEREAS, The people of El Salvador overwhelmingly demonstrated their rejection of the communist insurgents and their desire for democracy by the extremely large turnouts for the March 28, 1982 constituent assembly election and the March 25, 1984 presidential election. President Reagan appointed immediate Past National Commander Al Keller, Jr., to the U.S. observation team for the 1984 election. He found the election to be a stirring example of Salvadoran enthusiasm for democracy; and

WHEREAS, The Communist threat to El Salvador is critical, due to international conditions and destruction by the insurgents; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States has publicly, clearly and repeatedly "drawn a line" and pledged to defeat communist aggression in El Salvador, thus making U.S. resolve and success absolutely imperative; and

WHEREAS, The Government of El Salvador, with U.S. help has made significant progress by adopting a democratic constitution, implementing numerous economic reforms and improving the professionalism and effectiveness of the Salvadoran armed forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government be urged to provide economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerillas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government be urged to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist insurgency in El Salvador.

Res No: 392 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Guatemala**

WHEREAS, Guatemala is the largest country in Central America and is strategically located on Mexico's southern border near the large Mexican oil fields; and

WHEREAS, Since 1982, Guatemala has greatly reduced extra-legal killings and adopted a comprehensive counter insurgency aimed at increasing the size of the armed forces and employing them under a professional code of conduct, and establishing local civic-action programs to address the people's economic and social needs; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, because of distaste for the previous government, the United States has provided greatly reduced aid to Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Guatemala held its first democratic presidential election in two decades; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a vital interest and responsibility in assisting Guatemala to maintain its independence; and Guatemalan efforts to consolidate democracy have been noted; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should continue trying to influence the Guatemalan government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic, and social conditions for the people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy.

Res No: 393 (Maryland) Subject: **Honduras**

WHEREAS, Honduras has maintained a democratic form of government, given refuge to those fleeing suppression in Nicaragua, provided a base area to strengthen those seeking to oppose the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, and cooperated with U.S. efforts to curtail the export of revolution within Central America; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinista government of Nicaragua, with Cuban and Soviet assistance, is developing armed forces far in excess of its reasonable needs, thus threatening Honduras; and

WHEREAS, Honduras has cooperated with the U.S. security assistance effort to oppose communist insurgency in Central America by participating in combined military maneuvers with U.S. armed forces and expanding its military infrastructure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperation with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America.

Res No: 394 (Maryland) Subject: **Mexico**

WHEREAS, The United States and Mexico are historic neighbors with a common heritage and thousands of miles of common boundary; and

WHEREAS, The economic situation in Mexico requires financial cooperation from all sources to enable her to overcome her crisis; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a natural interest in Mexico's development and progress due to our common border; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Bloc now provides thousands of college scholarships annually to Latin American students; and

WHEREAS, Mexico leads all nations in the percentage of its trade with the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government be urged to increase its emphasis on Mexico-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should provide a greatly expanded number of scholarships to Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students promise to return to Mexico after completing their education; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a student exchange program between Mexico and the United States be initiated to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in all economic transactions with Mexico (especially those dealing with procurement of petroleum products and other sources of energy) the U.S. Government should provide Mexico equal or greater consideration as compared to other nations supplying the same products; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government should seek to develop a common approach to Central America and to encourage an awareness on the part of the Government of Mexico as to the ultimate security threat to Mexico.

Res No: 395 (Maryland) as consolidated with Res. 77 (OH) and Res. 118 (IL) Subject: **Nicaragua**

WHEREAS, During the 1979 revolution, Nicaraguans of all political persuasions supported the Sandinistas, who had promised the Organization of American States that Nicaragua would become a democratic nation living in harmony with its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The Sandinistas have betrayed their promise and are converting Nicaragua into a Marxist-Leninist totalitarian state dedicated to the instigation and support of communist revolution through Central America; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua is creating an unnecessarily large and sophisticated military force, exceeding the forces of all other Central American nations; and

WHEREAS, By accepting large amounts of Soviet-Cuban aid, advisors and ideology, Nicaragua has become a "second Cuba" on the mainland of the Western Hemisphere; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should:

1. Oppose the Marxist-Leninist type government being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to helping Nicaraguans replace it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles.
2. Seek to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and aid the Nicaraguan freedom fighters in their struggle against tyranny.
3. Provide whatever means are necessary to achieve the above objectives.
4. Invite the other free nations of the Americas to join in this effort through the Organization of American States, or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent nations.

Res No: 396 (Maryland) Subject: **Inter-American Security**

WHEREAS, In 1823, President Monroe enunciated the Monroe Doctrine, announcing the closing of the Western Hemisphere to further colonization by European powers by stating that "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety." For over a century, the Monroe Doctrine effectively prevented foreign domination of Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Domestic and foreign developments warrant reexamination of the Monroe Doctrine by the U.S. Government. Although U.S. objectives in Latin America remain unchanged, the means of achieving them must be adapted to modern circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Congress has become increasingly assertive in foreign relations, generally restricting presidential initiatives. It seems unlikely that the Congress would approve unilateral U.S. applications of the Monroe Doctrine, except in extreme circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Latin American nations regard unilateral U.S. application of the Monroe Doctrine as inappropriate in the modern area; however, adoption of the Rio Treaty in 1948, in effect, implemented a collective form of the Monroe Doctrine as hemispheric policy; and

WHEREAS, In the past four decades, the U.S. Government has increasingly followed a "Good Neighbor" policy toward Latin America, pursuing policies mutually beneficial to itself and its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Marxist-Leninist totalitarian regimes in Cuba and Nicaragua, subservient to the Soviet Union, pose a continuing threat to Latin America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion believes the U.S. Government should adopt the following policies toward Latin America:

1. The United States has a vital national interest in helping our Latin American allies create stable, prosperous, free societies.

2. The United States must be willing to devote the necessary resources to achieve this goal.

3. Whenever it accords with U.S. interests, the United States should channel its efforts through multilateral means such as the Organization of American States and the Rio Treaty.

4. If compelling circumstances dictate otherwise, the United States must take whatever unilateral actions are required to achieve its national security objectives.

Res No: 399 (Maryland) Subject: **Central America**

WHEREAS, For four centuries, Central America very largely was composed of non-democratic, feudal-like societies. Large-scale economic, social, and political injustices prevailed, although the situation varied somewhat (for example, Costa Rica has been a vibrant democratic society for over four decades), generally underdeveloped conditions existed in most parts of Central America; and

WHEREAS, Following the Nicaragua revolution in 1979 and its subsequent betrayal by the Sandinistas, the Soviet Union, acting through its Cuban and Nicaraguan surrogates, has attempted to spread revolution throughout the area by exploiting the existing underdeveloped conditions; and

WHEREAS, Since the military coup by progressive military officers in El Salvador in 1979, democratic evolution has been underway in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. To varying degrees, all the countries in Central America, except Nicaragua, have expressed a desire to become democratic, prosperous, peaceful societies. That goal is unattainable without U.S. encouragement, economic aid and military aid; and

WHEREAS, The late Senator Henry M. Jackson, along with some other members of Congress, recognized the importance of developing a long-term, bipartisan consensus to protect U.S. national security interests in Central America and promote democratic evolution. Senator Jackson urged the establishment of a bipartisan commission to examine U.S. Central American policy. Accordingly, President Reagan subsequently appointed a National Bipartisan Commission on Central American (NBCCA). In making his recommendation, Senator Jackson said, "We can no longer follow the familiar pattern of U.S. policy in Latin America; sporadic attention when we feel our interest threatened by coup or revolution, then abandonment and unconcern. Our policy must have a 30 to 50 year aim; effective help in building democracy, increased economic opportunity and greater respect for human rights"; and

WHEREAS, National Commander Keith Kreul testified before the NBCCA and urged the adoption of a "Marshall-type Plan" for the area which would provide a long-term comprehensive U.S. commitment to the promotion of democracy, economic growth, and security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we fully support the Jackson Plan and urge the Congress to fully fund it as a matter of vital national interest.

Res No: 400 (Maryland) Subject: **Caribbean Basin**

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Basin is in an area of vital interest to the United States because of its proximity, sealands and resources; and

WHEREAS, The Caribbean Basin nations suffer, to varying degrees, from poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and disease; and

WHEREAS, Most nations in the Caribbean Basin are friendly to the United States and seek to maintain or establish democratic political systems; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, the Soviet Union, acting through Cuba, has created a significant military threat to sealanes vital for deployment to NATO Europe and an increasingly powerful base for the export of revolution to the area; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, the Congress approved the Caribbean Basin Initiative which gave duty free access to the U.S. market for 12 years to most Caribbean Basin exports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the American people to (1) make those necessary sacrifices to stop communist expansionism in the Caribbean Basin, (2) support the U.S. Government's efforts to prevent the Marxist takeover of any country

in the Caribbean Basin by subversion or armed aggression and to promote free elections of governments to represent the people of those countries; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Caribbean Basin Initiative be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty free access to the U.S. market for all Caribbean Basin products for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States should provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations at the college and high school levels and increased support for primary education to promote literacy.

REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Res No: 26 (Utah) Subject: **Panama Canal**
Res No: 344 (Washington) Subject: **Panama Canal**
Res No: 386 (Maryland) Subject: **Reexamination of Panama Canal Treaties**
Res No: 388 (Maryland) Subject: **Protection of the Panama Canal**

REJECTED

Res No: 387 (Maryland) Subject: **Support For President Delvalle of Panama**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: For the report of the Resolutions on Middle Eastern Affairs Edmund A. Zachman, Ohio, Chairman.

REPORT OF MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

. . . Subcommittee Chairman Edmund A. Zachman, Ohio, submitted the following report:

Res No: 117 (Pennsylvania) as amended Subject: **The United States Warship The Vincennes**

WHEREAS, Commander Will Rogers alertly responded to a low-flying aircraft on a course directly toward a United States warship (The Vincennes) under his command; and

WHEREAS, The low flying plane continued on course despite warnings in two languages and made no effort to change course at any time; and

WHEREAS, Commander Rogers, feeling that his crew of United States Navy personnel and his ship were in grave danger, ordered precautionary action in the firing of missiles, destroying the threatening aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The warship was in a hostile zone protecting international shipping and a United States warship, the Stark, had previously been attacked in that area with considerable loss of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we highly commend Commander Will Rogers for his positive action in a dangerous situation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States government make no effort at reparations or restitution to any person or government until the Iranian government makes restitution to the hostages of the United States that were imprisoned for over a year by that government and reparations are paid for the United States Marines killed in Beirut, Lebanon.

Res No: 384 (Maryland) as consolidated with Res. 76 (OH) Subject: **Afghanistan**

WHEREAS, In December 1979, the Soviet Union blatantly violated the UN Charter by invading Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, The gallant Afghan freedom fighters have bravely opposed the Soviet Invasion with inadequate and outdated military arms; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has used a wide range of draconian measures in an at-

tempt to crush the Afghan freedom fighters, including chemical war fare and aerial bombing; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has promised to remove its military forces from Afghanistan but to continue providing material aid and advisers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the United States and other Free World nations to provide adequate humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and military aid to Afghan freedom fighters as they struggle to eject all Soviet influence from their country.

Res No: 397 (Maryland) as amended and consolidated with Res. 235 (MN) and Res. 302 (VA) Subject: **Middle East**

WHEREAS, The United States has a continuing national interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation within secure borders, living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for a great deal of their petroleum, and the United States imports some petroleum from the area; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; and

WHEREAS, Since 1980 the Iraq-Iran War has taken a huge toll, and an Iranian victory would very likely endanger the security of other nearby countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

1. A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab States.
2. Exclusion of the Soviet Union from the region.
3. A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.
4. Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.
5. Resolution of the Iraq-Iran War without Iran or Iraq being enabled to conquer or dominate other nations in the region.

Res No: 398 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Libya**

WHEREAS, Libya provides bases, training, and direction to terrorists; and

WHEREAS, Libya violates international law by claiming sovereignty over the entire Gulf of Sidra; and

WHEREAS, Libya opposes the United States in every possible way; and

WHEREAS, Libya grossly interferes in several countries of North Africa; and

WHEREAS, Libya is cooperative with the Soviet Union and provides a base for Soviet expansion and its efforts to destabilize the Western World; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. Government should combat Libyan terrorism and aggression by all means necessary.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the subcommittee report on Middle Eastern Affairs.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DETWEILER: Mr. Commander, you have heard the report of the Foreign Relations Convention Committee. As a duly elected Delegate from the great Department of Louisiana, I now move the adoption of this report.

. . . The Motion was duly seconded and carried.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: There is a national organization headquartered in Louisville that is a tribute to veterans of another era. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was founded in 1889. Today they have more than 24,000 members in 54 states. These individuals are involved with many programs that parallel the goals of our own organization. They include Americanism, oratorical contests, patriotic action and the like.

The members of the Sons of the American Revolution are descendants of those men and women who served America during the Revolutionary War.

It is my pleasure to introduce to the Delegates of The American Legion and our guests the President of the Sons of the American Revolution, General Charles F. Printz.

GENERAL CHARLES F. PRINTZ, PRESIDENT
National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Commander Comer, distinguished guests, fellow Legionnaires, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pride that I appear here today, personally as a 41 year member of our Legion, and, secondly, as President General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, whose 100th birthday we shall proudly celebrate on April 30, 1989.

It is worth noting that our organizations have a unique relationship. Closer than you might realize.

In February, after World War I, about twenty Army officers gathered to determine what might be done to honor those men who served. This conclave led to the formation of their American Legion. One of the officers that reportedly was the great motivator was an SAR member, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. He was a member of the New York Society and a career Army officer. As you probably know General Roosevelt was killed in action during World War II on the Beaches of Normandy.

PRESENTATION

PRESIDENT GENERAL PRINTZ: My presence here is to welcome you to Louisville to the National Headquarters of the Sons of the American Revolution but more importantly to present our highest award, the gold Good Citizenship Medal to your National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer for his outstanding performance as our Legion's leader throughout this past year. I know you are proud of him, and it is a distinct honor for me to present him this gold Good Citizenship Medal and certificate. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, General Printz. Thank you for the award. There is another interesting parallel between our two organizations. You will be holding your annual Congress in 1990 here in your headquarters city. This is the same year The American Legion will hold its convention in Indianapolis, our headquarters city. I wish you well in your continued efforts to keep the memory of this time in our history alive for future generations.

* * *

INTRODUCTION
THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH
Vice President of The United States

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a distinct pleasure for me to present to you a very special guest of this National Convention.

He has been a guest of The American Legion before, but his visit here today comes at an important time in his political career. His appearance this morning is his first as candidate for the highest elected office in the land.

He is a veteran of World War II, having earned four flying medals during 58 combat missions. His national public service has continued for more than two decades, and includes service in the United States House of Representatives, as Ambassador to the United Nations, Chief of the U.S. Liaison office in the People's Republic of China, and as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I am particularly pleased that accompanying him today, and here with me on the convention platform, is his lovely wife, Barbara. We are honored to have her here.

Please join me in welcoming a fellow Legionnaire from Houston Post 313 in the great Department of Texas, the Republican candidate for President of the United States, the Honorable George Bush.

Mr. Vice President.

THE HONORABLE GEORGE H. BUSH
Vice President of The United States
Republican Nominee for President of the United States

Thank you, Jake. What a job you have done. And thank you for that warm introduction. It seems like just yesterday, when in Texas, and here, you have done a superb job. I want to congratulate Bob Spanogle and the others that are so important in all of the work of the Legion.

And what an honor it is for me to speak to The American Legion, 2.8 million strong, dedicated in so many ways to keeping America strong.

You know, I spoke in New Orleans at our convention, the Republican National Convention, a few weeks ago about the kinds of organizations, volunteer organizations, that give America its big heart, its unparalleled generosity. Here is The American Legion's record.

You all know, you have been part of it. You have made it history. Over two million hours of community service, all volunteer; 363,000 pints of blood donated; 25,000 veterans assisted with finding jobs and training and the list goes on and on, contributions to cancer research, and aid to handicapped children. Your outstanding Boys State program, and of course, 63 years of sponsorship of our beloved national game, national past-time, baseball, by The American Legion. Thank God that America has organizations like this, that put something back into the system. I congratulate you.

You all know this, but maybe there are some that are watching, or some that are visiting that don't. The American Legion is the nation's fastest growing and largest veteran's organization, and I am proud to say that I am a Legionnaire, and have been one for a long time.

As veterans, you know better than anyone, the value of strength, the terrible costs of war, and the burdens that men and women have borne before in the name of freedom.

I believe that the nation owes a debt of gratitude to those who have carried that burden. Abraham Lincoln said:

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle for him and his widow and orphan."

Let me just touch on a few of the ways that I am, if I am elected President, I as a veteran will support our veterans. I will support the continuing, the continuation and the strengthening of the Veteran's Preference in Federal hiring.

I will never forget, and I will do everything that I possibly can to resolve the fate of our Prisoners of War, Those Missing In Action.

I will help our Vietnam Veterans and Korean Veterans to whom honor and respect is long overdue.

And I will pay special attention to the needs of the veterans, those 6,000,000 among us who are over 65. We must develop a health care policy for our older veterans that can serve as a model for Americans nationwide.

I do want to strengthen the VA. You have worked hard to pass a bill that would raise the VA to Cabinet level status. I fully expect that as one of his last acts in office, yesterday's speaker, President Reagan, will be able to sign that bill into law. But if for some reason he doesn't get that chance, and if I am elected, that is one of the first things I would do as President, and in the Bush Administration, we will have the Veterans Administration at the Cabinet table.

This past weekend was Labor Day, the traditional kickoff of an election campaign that poses the most important choice in a generation. We are in the midst of a national campaign, there are deep divisions, deep differences between the candidates, differences on the economy. My opponent's record in Massachusetts is one of more state spending and more taxes.

I favor, as I think most of you know, the low tax, high opportunity policy, that has created the longest expansion in American history.

There are other differences. There are family value differences that can be misinterpreted, but I have no hesitancy in telling you my position and telling you where I differ.

Deep differences on these value issues. My opponent vetoed a bill to require teachers to lead the kids in the Pledge of Allegiance in schools, and I would have signed that bill. We are, after all, one nation, under God.

I am sure we are both very much concerned about crime. My opponent and I, both, but we have a different approach to it. He let murderers who have not even served enough time to be eligible for parole out on weekend furloughs, I disapprove of that kind of policy.

I want to keep them behind bars. We have a difference on the kind of judges we would appoint, and we have a difference on whether the death penalty should be imposed. My opponent, that is a matter of conscience for him, for every criminal, every crime at all, I think some crimes, such as drug king pins, killing police officers are so horrible, that they deserve the death penalty. I am convinced that would deter crime.

And so, we have a litany of differences between us. What I am trying to do, is fairly present the differences, because I don't sense that the opposition wants to do that, wants to blow over these differences, therefore, I have a responsibility to the American people to spell out the differences. I want to be sure then, as I say, I do it fairly.

But the issue that divides us the most, and the President touched on some of these yesterday, is national security. How do we fulfill our responsibilities as leaders of the free world? And it is not a responsibility that I take lightly. Many of you in this room risked your lives to defend the values we hold dear, freedom, opportunity, the right to speak your mind freely, and pursue your dreams on the end of the rainbow, 100% Americanism, as your own Constitution says. And I, too, served in the cause as a young man. In fact, it was 44 years ago this week, September 2, 1944, when I was just past my 20th birthday, and my plane, one of those little torpedo bombers, Grumman Avenger, some of you Navy types may remember, was shot down out of the sky, over a Japanese held island. And people ask me, what is it that sustained you, alone in that life raft, hoping that I might be rescued by a friendly submarine?

And the answer is the same things that sustain me now, the same things that sustain each and every one of us here when we have difficulties or we have challenges.

What sustained me? The strength drawn from my family, my belief in God, and an unwavering faith in the United States of America.

That sustained me then, and if I am elected it will sustain me as President of the United States.

A President has no higher duty, none at all, than to protect and enhance the national security of the United States of America.

Perhaps John Kennedy said it best when he said, domestic policy could get me defeated, bad foreign policy could get us killed.

Forty-nine years ago this week, the world was plunged into war, a war in which many of us served when Hitler's Nazi Germany invaded Poland. We learned a valuable lesson, one which we should never forget. It is that weakness tempts aggression, and aggression leads to war.

And since then, Democratic and Republican candidates for President alike have known that to maintain the peace, America must be strong.

Peace through strength is not a slogan, it is a lesson learned through the years, sometimes with the blood of brave men and women.

Today, you remember, I wonder how many Americans remember, today is Pearl Harbor Day, 47 years ago, to this very day, we were hit and hit hard at Pearl Harbor, and we were not ready.

In a Bush Administration, that lesson would not be forgotten. It would guide my defense and foreign policy. Peace through strength works.

Today the world is changing fast, and the lesson is being learned anew.

Now, as Ronald Reagan's truly remarkable term of leadership comes to a close, we are presented with a unique opportunity. All around the globe, freedom is on the march.

Did I say September 7?

. . . Cries of, "Yes."

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH: Sorry about that, December 7, 1941.

This year, 47 years ago, I am glad I corrected that. I saw this guy shaking me off out here, December 7, 1941, and all around the globe, freedom is on the march.

The Soviets are withdrawing from Afghanistan; the Vietnamese are leaving Cambodia; the Cubans are negotiating to leave Angola, 50,000 of them, and you are aware that war has ceased, at least for now, in the Persian Gulf. We have begun a new relationship with the

Soviet Union, and it is a relationship that demands continued caution and realism. But we can say that peace is breaking out all over, and it is no accident.

It is happening because over the last eight years, we pursued a policy of strength, and we pursued a policy of consistency and patience in negotiations, and we demonstrated our resolve in living up to our commitments. And you know, the Legion have been our supporters in this cause, and in supporting our program to rebuild America's defense, in supporting the Freedom Fighters in Nicaragua, those who are fighting for freedom and democracy against the Communist regime.

And in supporting the development of a strategic defense. And for that, as the President said yesterday, we are very grateful. Our success has been built on four pillars, the pillars that would guide my Presidency:

First, pride. We took a demoralized military, and restored a sense of honor, a state of readiness, and ethic of service.

Second, realism. Seeing the world as it is, not as we wish it were, viewing the Soviets with hope, but also with caution, looking for deeds, not just words.

Third, strength. Modernizing our forces, preserving deterrence, developing strategic defense, and

Fourth, engagement, taking up the challenge of our mission to lead in defending the cause of freedom around the world.

The clearest signs of success of these four pillars is the event which it will be my honor to witness tomorrow. Tomorrow I go down to Marshall, Texas, before the assembled leaders from the United States and the Soviet Union, and a set of missiles used to deliver intermediate range nuclear weapons there will be destroyed in Marshall, and for the first time in our history, we are destroying nuclear weapons, not just building them.

But we are not out of the woods yet. The Soviets are now deploying two new ICBM's, the SS-24 and the SS-25. So even with the new reform, the Soviet reform militarization, including their own research and strategic defense has not slackened. Soviet military spending continues to rise.

And what is the answer? Churchill put it best in 1946, after the war was over, and the hard-earned peace was finally at hand, Churchill put it this way:

"Before we cast away the solid assurances of national armaments for self-preservation, we must be certain that our temple is built, not upon shifting sands, or quagmires, but upon the rock."

My friends, I will keep America's defenses "built upon the rock."

And I will never let America be made weak again.

The key to future progress is continued strength, and we must keep our nuclear forces, our land based missiles, our bombers and our submarines, ready and up-to-date. And that is what brought the Soviets to the negotiating table. That is what produced the INF Treaty where they took out 1,600 warheads, and we took out 400. The West is no longer threatened by Soviet monopoly, only a belligerent modernizing of the Soviet Union to negotiate real arms reductions, and we cannot defend ourselves if we permit our weapons to become obsolete.

Soviet leaders would have no incentive to sit down and negotiate with us, if we do the work of disarming America for them.

For many years, my opponent supported the nuclear freeze. Now that freeze would have ultimately made it impossible to achieve the INF Treaty.

He has made proposals to cancel and lay our strategic modernization, and that amounts to an undeclared unilateral freeze. Look at the record..

In the past, he has called for cancellation of the MX, and he continues to oppose deployment of the mobile MX and Midgetman. He said in the past, he couldn't commit to the deployment of the stealth bomber, although this can be changing.

He has called for cancellation of the two carrier task forces. Now I favor these elements in our modernization program for the simple reason, if the Soviets think the American President will unilaterally gut our weapons modernization program, they will have absolutely no incentive to negotiate reductions. They would continue to modernize, and we would be at an increased disadvantage.

Now look, if my opponent doesn't want to modernize his snowblower, that is his business, but if he doesn't want to modernize our defenses, that is not good for America, that is outrageous for America. We have a dialogue now that we want to approach in negotiations with the Soviets.

The fact is that we need those two carrier task forces. We need them to maintain our commitments worldwide and the operations in the Persian Gulf, or in the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

The fact is, the Soviets are building now, modernizing a new naval base right there in Syria, and we have got to be sure we have naval capability.

The fact is, we have had a bi-partisan consensus in this country for both a strong nuclear deterrent and a robust conventional defense, not just one, but both. Not just one at the expense of the other, but the two working together. And that is what guarantees deterrence. Let's not abandon a guarantee that has worked for 40 years.

One of the promising new tools to strengthen that guarantee, to ensure that it never fails, is the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Let me tell you my position on this defense initiative. The opponents like to call it, Star Wars. It is not. It is a shield. I have consistently supported the President's vision of a world safe from attacks by ballistic missiles. And we made dramatic progress over the past five years.

SDI is neither impossible nor impractical, and my opponent calls it fantasy, and it certainly is not that. Quite the contrary, I have seen the technology first-hand, I have seen the results of American ingenuity and scientific genius. I am one who believes we can accomplish what we set out to do.

We are now on the urge of being able to move from a force posture by realizing our ability to destroy our enemies in order to deter war, to one where we can deter war by protecting ourselves.

How do we get there? By research, and evaluating the full range of promising technologies, and then by deploying those that work.

But make no mistake about it, we will get there.

My opponent is opposed to the SDI. But like you in The American Legion, I support it. We can not leave America hostage to Soviet ballistic missiles.

I have got to mention one other key modernization. In the event of a crisis, a President has to have many communicators. You came out of that side of the military and in the event of a crisis, a President would need the most up-to-date communication systems in the world, so that he would have the ability to send and receive secret messages as rapidly as possible in the event of an attack.

Our nation has designed such a communications system. It spans the continent. It is called the Ground Wave Emergency Network, or GWEN, for short.

Of the 56 planned GWEN sites around the country, 52 have been completed. Only one Governor refused to have a site anywhere in his state, only one. That was the Governor of Massachusetts.

Let me be clear. I do not question his patriotism, but patriotism is not the issue. The issue is how best to deter war, to keep the peace, to fulfill our country's unique responsibility as leader of the free world.

And that is a question that the American people, with that in mind, will vote for in November.

I believe we do have a special mission, far more so than any other country, we have a special mission. We are the flagship of freedom. We have a mission and a responsibility to lead, and have a mission to protect American citizens abroad.

Several years ago, to give the people of that tiny community of Grenada a chance to live their lives in democracy and peace, and my opponent called it a misuse of American power, I say, when American lives are at stake anywhere in the world, that is not a misuse of American power. We did the right thing in Grenada, and that is now a democratic country in its infancy for democracy and freedom.

We led that mission to combat terrorism by striking against Qadhafi in Libya. My opponent opposed the strike against Libya, I supported it.

Today we have now stronger cooperation in meeting the terrorist threat, and, let me say this, if terrorists murder innocent Americans, and we have the irrefutable evidence as we did in the case of Libya, I would not hesitate to strike again. We have got to take the offensive when American lives are threatened.

We also led the mission to protect the flow of oil to the free world through the Persian Gulf, and some were very quick to criticize our efforts, but look at what has happened, that oil has never stopped flowing, the GTC countries are still independent, and the parties Iran and Iraq are talking peace.

The point is that it is our responsibility to lead. We cannot and should not turn that responsibility over to the United Nations or some other multilateral force. Our job is to protect America's vital interests, and no one else in the world can do it except us.

Now, what it all comes down to is that the President must be a shrewd protector of America's interests. As Teddy Roosevelt said:

"No public men have a right, whether for shortsightedness, from selfish indifference, or from sentimentality, to sacrifice national interests which are vital in character."

In our changing world, full of both danger and hope, full of new technologies and old ambitions, the question I ask the American people is who should lead this great country?

I will never forget that day of December 7th. I was in school walking across the school campus, having come out from a church service on that Sunday, December 7, 1941, and I remember the impact that that had on me, our country under attack. It later turned out an enormous building job had to be done. I remember it. It stands clearly in my mind as a turning point, perhaps in the way we would approach our military responsibility for the future and for evermore.

But the threats are still here in our changing world, danger and hope, new technologies and old ambitions. So, we get back to the question of who should lead this country, the last best hope of man on earth. Who is best able to be the shrewd protector of America's interests? It boils down to who should be the man at that desk in the Oval Office.

I think America wants tough, tested and experienced leadership in the man who sits at that desk as we begin the 1990's.

It has been a great pleasure for me to be here in Louisville to speak to this marvelously patriotic organization. This is blue grass country, and I must tell you, I like a good race. So, let me finish by telling you my strategy for that race. I mean to run hard, I mean to stand on the issues, I mean to stand up for America with pride and patriotism in my heart. I am proud of having served my country in combat. I believe I have the fiber and experience to lead this country. I mean to run hard, I mean to stand on the issues, and with your help, I mean to win. Thank you all very, very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you Mr. Vice President, for your appearance here today, and also thanks to your lovely wife, Barbara, for her appearance.

It is a very special treat for the women of our organization to meet your lovely wife, Barbara. Thank you very much.

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you all; thank you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Convention will be in order.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has 58,022 names inscribed on it. Only 8 are females. But there are more than 10,000 female Vietnam veterans, many of whom are emotional casualties of the war.

In order to honor these women veterans, an Army Nurse of the war has launched a national program to educate the nation about the service of women to this country during the Vietnam War, to locate all women who served and to place a statue depicting a woman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I have been asked over and over again as I have traveled throughout this nation by the press, what is The American Legion's position on women in The American Legion? And I have been so proud to tell the press, different than many other organizations, women have been able to vote for the National Commander of The American Legion before she could vote for the President of The United States.

Please join with me in welcoming a courageous woman, a former Captain and a Legionnaire of Post 121 in River Falls, Wisconsin, Diane Carlson Evans.

DIANE CARLSON EVANS, R.N.
Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc.

Thank you, Commander Comer, guests, and my fellow veterans. Until Saturday, I really didn't know how I wanted to begin my talk with you today. But I decided in the car, on the way to the airport with my husband, who was on his way to New Hampshire for two weeks in the National Guard, and I was on my way here, we had an hour to talk, which is rare. And he told me about an incident the day before with a female patient at his clinic. He said he asked her her age, and she said, 71. And in the history taking, she said she had recently gotten out of the VA Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the new VA Hospital. And she told him how much she loved it and how wonderful the care was there.

And he said to her, "Oh, are they admitting dependents in the VA now?"

She said, "Why doctor, I am a veteran. I guess a young man like you wouldn't know that women served in World War II. Why women even served in Vietnam. Haven't you seen that bumper sticker that they have given everyone of the VA that says, 'Women are veterans too.'"

Well, by this time, he knew he was totally in the doghouse with two women, his patient and his wife. He wondered if he dared tell me about this.

So, he said to her, "Well, I see that sticker every day in my wife's office, it's up on the wall next to her Army discharge papers."

So she scolded him about not remembering that women are veterans, too, and that he should know better.

Well, I said, there is a moral to this story, and being my husband is a good sport, that revenge would be sweet, that I would tell the entire American Legion Convention that here is a man who has been married to a woman veteran for 17 years, and he paid a price for it, too, he still puts his foot in his mouth.

So all you women veterans out there, including myself, have had men Legionnaires say to you, as we register at the Conventions, ma'am, you are in the wrong place, the Auxiliary is over there, or, would all the ladies please leave the room now, the men are having their meeting.

Well, we will just forgive our male comrades for a few more years. We still have a ways to go, even with our own husbands.

Last year in San Antonio, I reported to you that we had received approval from the Vietnam Commission Members Jan Skruggs, and John Wheeler to place a statue of a woman Vietnam veteran at the wall in Washington, D.C., that we were waiting for a response to our proposal from the Secretary of the Interior Hodel.

Well, you know, the result of this story is, the approval came, and when we went to the Fine Arts Commission, our proposal was rejected four to one based on the site, arguing that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is complete; that the nation has healed; and that they don't want any more vertical monuments on the site, and that our statue would diminish the overall impact and power and beauty of the existing memorial.

Well, we talked about honor and healing, and equal dignity, and portraying history accurately.

They talked about aesthetics, and the risk of a proliferation of other statues, and the ghettoization of the Memorial.

As you know, we went to Congress for help, and to our supporters like you for help, and Senators Durenberger and Cranston authored our bill to place a statue of a woman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. And because of the Legion's support, and the hundreds, if not thousands of your letters and petitions that you signed, and phone calls to our Senators, they voted 96 to 1 in our favor on June 14.

Congressman Gejdenson of Connecticut and our wonderful friend, "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi then co-authored a companion bill for the House.

It is now sitting in the Subcommittee in the Library, and Chairman Oakar of Ohio is sitting on it. Before the Bill can go to the floor for a vote, it needs to get out of Oakar's Committee, and the full committee house administration.

Right now, this is again, where we need your help. Members of these committees need to be contacted right away, as they are particularly crucial to our success, if we are going to move this out this session.

I can quickly give you their names and states for those of you who live in their districts, and please contact them as soon as you return home. They are: Annunzio of Illinois; Foglietta of Pennsylvania; Ed Jones of Tennessee, Rose, North Carolina; McCandless, California; Swift of Washington; Oakar, Ohio; Coelho of California; Bates of California; Clay of Missouri; Gejdenson of Connecticut; Frenzel, Minnesota; Badham of California; Gingrich of Georgia; W. Thomas of California; Vuconovich of Nevada; and Roberts of Kansas.

And please remember that every Representative needs to be contacted and urged to vote yes, when our bill does go to the floor, hopefully in October.

Congress can only mandate the site for us. The proposed design by Roger Bolin, the replica of which is on display in Area C here in this building, must once again go back to the Fine Arts Commission for design approval. They will decide on the stethoscope even with Congressional site approval, the battle is far from won.

The real question has really become, why would anyone not allow a statue of a women to be established beside her brother veterans? As for a proliferation of all those other statues on subcategories that they are worrying about, well, men are men, and women are women. Those two genders represent them and honor them both, and that is two statues.

We would not separate from our brother soldier in Vietnam, not knowing on any given day whether we would be in our last. We lived and died for each other. We don't want to be separate from them now.

We applaud the success of the other Memorial to all military women. They have received approval for their site at the Hemi-Circle at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery.

Recently, I spoke with the President of the Women In Military Service Military Foundation, Wilma Baugh for an update. They are planning a museum, and will have a competition for the memorial design.

We are equal in our pursuits, and it is certainly time for two memorials in Washington, D.C., to honor our nation's women veterans.

My message to the American people is this:

Your respect and gratitude to women veterans of our project, and all those women for whom the women in military service memorial is to honor, will never be forgotten.

And also, you get a plus for 100% being behind this project and taking the lead. By working together in our commitment to honor servicewomen, The American Legion and its Auxiliary lets the world know that America is proud of all those American women who served beside her men.

There is one thing we stick together on, that is honor.

We had to work hard to bring in 265,000 women eligible for this organization from Vietnam era alone, and the two or three hundred thousand women eligible from the previous wars.

I know of no finer role model for a young woman today than women veterans, those people who uphold the ideas of The American Legion. So all those women veterans in this room who went before me, to them I would like to say, thank you for being my role model, as my WAC did in World War II.

Just once, I would like to see our picture, some pictures of women who served their country on the covers of those magazines at our local newsstands of the most admired women in America.

We went not where we were needed, but where we were wanted. We didn't let our country down during wartime, we won't let our country down during peacetime.

On behalf of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, our thanks to you for your generous contributions of money. We have reached our $1,000,000 goal. Our budget is $1.3 million. We are almost there.

And thanks to you, your help, your commitment, and thank you for believing in us.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Diane for a good job, good report, Diane.

I would like to commend you on your courageous effort to educate the nation about the service of the more than 10,000 women to this country during the Vietnam war.

I have also witnessed and heard you on other occasions as you signed up women veteran Legionnaires, and we are proud of your organization, and we thank you for what you are doing in behalf of all Legionnaires. Thank you for being here today.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Like father, like son. We've all heard that saying. "Like The American Legion, like the Sons of The American Legion." The SAL is a direct reflection of our organization and we hold a special bond with them that gets stronger every year.

The SAL has just concluded their annual convention here in Louisville and they have elected a new National Commander.

This is a 21 year member of the SAL and has held various offices in his Squadron, District and Detachment as well as on the national level. He comes from a total Legion family, who are actively involved on all levels of The American Legion. The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the SAL.

He was honored in 1985 by his Detachment as "SAL'er Of The Year" for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please greet Mr. David Faust of Kerl-Endres-Brennan Squadron 245, Wisconsin.

COMMANDER DAVID FAUST
Sons Of The American Legion

Thank you, thank you for that introduction, Commander Comer.

Adjutants, National Officers, Past National Commanders, distinguished guests, Delegates, Alternates, and guests of the 70th Annual Convention of The American Legion.

First of all, Commander Comer, our organization would like to say thank you for inspiring this American Legion family with your tremendous leadership and for giving us that wonderful theme of God, country and family.

We salute you.

Speaking of the family, there is one special member of my family I would like to have stand up and be recognized right now, the man who taught me what The American Legion is all about, a 44 year member of this proud organization, my father, Ray Faust, from Wisconsin.

Legionnaires I am happy to stand here today and report to you that your sons under the leadership of our Past National Commander, Richard League, and with the support of our organization people like Herm Harrington, Larry Beeson, Ray Patterson, and John Kerestan have had a most successful year.

Our membership rose from 90,000 to over 96,000 members, and we are on our way to 100,000 now in '88.

In the area of the Child Welfare Foundation, Commander Comer came to our organization, to ask our help.

He asked for the same 27 cents a member from the Sons of The American Legion as he did from all of the organizations. That would have put our quota at $23,600.

As of yesterday, I am happy to report to you, your sons have raised over $54,000 for the Child Welfare Foundation.

They came in at over 60 cents a member, putting them at 224% of goal.

In the area of Veterans Rehabilitation, our programs are on the increase. Last year, 151 VA homes inspected, 365 hospitals, and we had a total of 1,552 visits to VA facilities across this country.

Our cash donations more than doubled from $25,000 the previous year, to over $69,000 last year.

And our volunteer hours more than tripled from 7,000 to more than 21,000 hours.

We had a good year, but now, with our Convention over, we look to build on the successes of our past year, and move on to the future.

Next year, we are pledging 108,000 members with individuals working together with The American Legion as partners in service to our great country.

Investment in our future, we are going to pledge continued support to our Child Welfare Foundation, and service is our number one priority, and our way of saying thank you to American veterans for the sacrifices that you have made for this country.

In 1988, we had a membership theme of 100,000 for '88. In 1989, we are going to have as a service theme, 100,000 hours for the veteran.

Our members are going to work together to volunteer 100,000 hours as our way of saying, thank you for all you have done for us.

You may ask why are we working so hard, what are we doing all of this for? There are a few reasons:

It is because we are proud of this great American Legion, and we are proud to be a part of it, and we want to help. We believe The American Legion family is the biggest, the greatest, and the most caring, and loving organization the world has ever known.

And the veterans, and your families are 45% of the population of this country, and are the majority of what America believes in, you know what America needs to survive, and we want to help.

Many of our own members have no military service, and fewer still are even veterans. But by God, we grew up in The American Legion family, and we believe in what The American Legion is doing, and what it stands for, and we want to help.

Your sons are standing ready this year to assist you in all of your endeavors.

We pledge our total support to all of your American Legion programs every time we have a meeting.

We read the Preamble to our Constitution, and the last line of our Preamble is this, but it is perhaps the most important one, and I quote it to you, it says:

"To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist the carrying on for God and country."

Mr. Commander Comer, again, I would like to congratulate you on a most successful year, and to Sparky Gierke, wherever he may be, I'm looking forward to working with you this next year, and to getting our two organizations to work even closer together as proud Americans for this great country.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, David. And I ask you to introduce those traveling with you on the platform.

SAL COMMANDER FAUST: I would like to introduce some of my companions with me. We have Chris Patel, NECman from the state of New Jersey. Mr. Thomas O'Brien, my Community Affairs Commission Chairman from the state of Florida. Mr. William Murphy from Massachusetts, our new Chaplain.

And also, I would like to acknowledge my wife, she is out there someplace, my brother Alan Faust. He is a Vietnam veteran, and he has 22 years of active service to our country, and he is going to serve as my aide this next year.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, David.

And I know that the Administration to follow is looking forward to working with such a capable and able individual as the Sons of The American Legion have elected as National Commander. Thank you.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: My fellow Legionnaires, it is my privilege now to present another very special guest of this Convention, a great friend of The American Legion.

Our guest has established an outstanding record of leadership in the area of Veterans affairs during his 12 years as a United States Senator.

He is a Member of the American Veterans Affairs Committee, a Member of the Senate

Appropriations Committee, and this is not his first appearance at a National Convention, he having been a featured speaker during the 68th Annual Convention in Cincinnati in 1986, please welcome from Arizona, Dennis DeConcini.

THE HONORABLE DENNIS DECONCINI
Senator, Arizona

Comrade Commander, thanks very very much.

I know that all of you joined here today in saying what a great job he has done in leading The American Legion. He surpassed his goals, and I am proud that I have had an opportunity to be with him on many occasions.

It is an honor for me to be speaking before this great audience of Legionnaires.

America is a land of liberty. We owe you the veterans everywhere throughout this land the freedoms that we enjoy today.

When I address a group such as this, I can't help but think of the story when you see so much brass and so many fine officers and enlisted personnel, of the story of the general, who asked his captain to please review his strategies toward the defense of Western Europe.

When he did it, the Captain came back and said, "Well, sir, it just won't work." And the General was very disappointed, and asked the Captain, he said, "You don't understand, son, I did this myself. I want you to go back and review that again, because I think it is outstanding."

And the Captain did go back and reviewed it for three hours, and he came back out and he said, "Well, General, it is a good idea, but it just won't work."

And the General said, "You know, I can't understand that, because I worked awfully hard on that." And, he said, "Are you sure?" And he berated the Captain. And the Captain said, "You know, General, you didn't get to be a General by just being a yes man." And the General stood back and he shot back and he said, "Yes, but that is how I got to be a Major, son."

Well, we are not looking for yes men, the veterans are not yes men, they are willing to stand up and be counted.

They have done so. You set the examples of profiles and courage, and American veterans have led the way.

The American veterans, the brightest and the best, from Valley Forge to Vietnam, our veterans never let America down.

America can not, and we must not abandon the commitment that we have to our veterans.

We are now in the stretch, the home stretch of an election that will determine the next President of The United States.

In this election, my friends, contrary to what you may hear, I was pleased to hear Vice President Bush underscore this, patriotism is not an issue. Mr. Bush is a war hero, no one questions his service to his country.

Governor Dukakis served with honor in Korea; Senator Bentsen was a World War II B-52 Squadron Commander with numerous successful missions, and his service to his country is not in question, so patriotism is not the issue.

The issue is who can best deliver the challenging times that are ahead of us.

Yesterday, President Reagan gave you a moving speech. The President is to be commended on many fronts. The summit meeting with Mr. Gorbachev shows his willingness to negotiate from a position of strength.

The INF Treaty is an important step to peace. Most importantly, the President's defense buildup was absolutely essential for our national security.

I was with the President every step of the way on that buildup. I supported the B-1 bomber when some tried to abandon that weapon. I supported the MX missile, the Minute Man missile, and the stealth bomber, the research and development monies for the SDI. I fought for the M-1 tank, and the Apache helicopter and to increase our Naval strength.

But, my friends, mark that down, and underscore it, we do not promote the national security by slashing veterans programs.

Because our national security depends upon veterans, to those who would forget America's commitments to our veterans, let me say simply this, what good is all the sophisticated equipment if we have no good soldiers to man the guns?

I sit on the Veterans Affairs Committee in the Senate, and I am deeply disturbed at an Administration that talks good talk, that protests a commitment to the veterans, but repeatedly, repeatedly fails to keep its word to the veterans.

I ask you today to do one thing for this Senator, and one thing for yourself, to take a long hard look at the facts.

The Reagan book record shows without qualification, eight years of failed policy when it comes to veterans.

Seven years ago, seven years ago, the Commander of The American Legion came before the Veterans Affairs Joint Committee. He had the courage to speak out against the policies of a very popular President, and one that he had supported.

He had the courage to state the facts and speak the truth, because of his commitment to you and the principles which we all believe in.

In his testimony, Jack Flynt, focused on the President's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1982.

He said, and I quote, among other things, "We are apprehensive that in the face of the renewed pledge to cut the budget, veterans programs will suffer." And indeed they did.

In his statement, Commander Flynt emphasized the need for a quality veterans mental care program. What we are running now in the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery, he said is a holding operation. The Chief Medical Director has said that we can not continue to run a first class system on reduced mental budgets, which means, that he is not getting enough money each year to make up for the loss of the dollar value due to inflation.

Look carefully at the Reagan-Bush record, and you will see that this is an Administration that has tried to ax VA hospital funding year after year, that tried to cut VA hospital staff by thousands and thousands of workers year after year.

This is an Administration that tried to take away the American dream from the American veteran.

It zeroed out Veterans Job Training and Vietnam Counseling Centers.

It tried to X out the new GI bill.

Now that is a program of unqualified success. That is a program that has returned $7 to the Treasury for every dollar spent.

This is the Administration that tried to junk the Veterans Loan Guaranty. At the same time, this Administration was promising in no uncertain terms that it will not raise any new taxes. Yet, they proposed to tax the veterans housing, they were even willing to consider imposing a tax on veterans disability compensation.

And the only reason these proposals failed, is that Congress fought them off.

Our organization stood up to a very popular President, one that was misguided on veterans issues. The only reason that the VA health care program is even in the shape it is in today is because Congress pumped in over $1.6 billion of what the Reagan-Bush Medical Care budget called for. We have literally kept the system alive.

I repeat, I have deep concern about an Administration that says one thing, and does another.

This is an administration that professes compassion for American veterans. And yet, they put at the helm of the Veterans Administration, an individual who compared the medical effect of Agent Orange to teenage acne.

Now I have a bone to pick with the current VA's Administrator. He defends the funding level that that administration sought for the agency. He says that it is adequate. He says that it is enough. He says, and I quote, "If anyone tells you we are not well funded, well, I think, they are whistling Dixie."

I am here to tell you, that the leadership of the House and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee ain't whistling Dixie. We are here crying the Battle Hymn of the Republic and it is time for the administration to stand up and face the music.

As President Reagan so eloquently said, facts are stubborn things. These are the facts, Legionnaires and friends. The facts are that the VA health care budget today is 7% lower and budget authority measured in constant dollars than it was in 1980.

The fact is that now, you have to wait for as long as four months to get into a VA outpatient clinic in this country.

The fact is, that last month, there was a "no trespassing" sign on one outpatient clinic in San Diego, which said, "Attention, effective Monday, August 15, 1988, patients requiring urgent and unscheduled care will not be seen at this facility."

We have testified that the VA is juggling its books to skirt the Congressional mandate that it operate 90,000 beds.

We have evidence that the VA is counting 13,000 hospital beds which in reality have been taken out of service, due to short staff and funding shortages.

Either way, the fact is, we have a money problem, and the next administration better face up to the reality.

Facts are stubborn things.

George Bush says that this election all comes down to who is at the desk. The Vice-President says it should be him.

But the man at the desk should be capable of making the hard decisions and choices in tough times.

In the spring of 1985, George Bush took his one public stand on veteran's programs. He broke a 49/49 tie vote in the Senate by voting for the Republican version of the fiscal year 1986 budget resolution. George Bush voted to cut VA health care programs by a half a million dollars in fiscal '86, $2 billion over a three year period. He voted to eliminate hospital care for 70,000 veterans, and cut out patient care by 300,000 visits.

George Bush voted to double the home loan fee. He voted to eliminate the FY '86 COLA for service disabled veterans and their spouses. Facts are stubborn things.

In all the years that Alan Cranston and Sonny Montgomery, and Strom Thurmond, along with The American Legion, God bless them and I, and others have tried to make the Administrator of the VA a member of the Cabinet, and we did succeed this year, this man and your organization deserve a tremendous amount of credit for it.

We never once heard George Bush's voice raised in support of this effort.

In fact, the Reagan-Bush Administration did not lend its support to the legislation until the bill had 222 co-sponsors in the House, and it was clear that the train was leaving the station with or without the administration, that the President decided to buy a ticket and board the train. And, I am glad he did. And he did so only on the eve of the House Veterans Committee unanimously on a bi-partisan basis approving the bill. This also just happened to be the eve of Veterans Day, 1987.

Dan Quayle, well, he didn't make the train at all. Mr. Quayle was only one of eleven Senators to vote against making the VA's Administrator a Cabinet level position, and he apparently still believes his vote was the correct one.

And where was George Bush? I say to you, certainly not out supporting this very important piece of legislation. Facts are stubborn things.

Actions do speak louder than words, my friends, the actions of this administration leave this Senator to question the commitment to our nation's veterans.

Do you really want and think that a Bush administration will battle for your benefits any harder than the current administration has done?

Are you really willing to take a chance? Are you really willing to take another chance? I am not. I am not.

Now do you want to rely on your friends in Congress to do what is committed to veterans? Don't you want the White House to be submitting budgets that call for the care of our veterans that have been promised?

We don't need to rely just on Congress. We need to rely on someone in the White House.

I ask you to listen attentively as a favor, and I know you will, because you are great Americans, to Mike Dukakis when he comes before you tomorrow.

I ask that you judge him, and not only do I ask you to judge him for what he tells you, but also by the record of solid accomplishment for veterans which he built in Massachusetts.

I know that if you do that, you will decide.

I know that you will decide what is best for the American veterans. Look at the facts, Legionnaires and citizens. Facts are stubborn things, they don't lie.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Senator, for your appearance here today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Deconcini has worked long and hard for The American Legion. He was here as a friend, and he was an invited guest.

I am telling you once again, I respect all of you, but please respect this Chair for at least another 24 hours.

If you think I have done a good job, that is what you tell me I have done, but do not disrespect this Chair.

I have worked just as hard as each and every one of you, and I respect you et al.

But we will have the democratic way and listen to every speaker, and we will make our boos heard in the election booth in November, not here in this hall.

* * *

BLOOD DONOR ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now seek out another personal appeal. We need 30 more units of blood. All donors will receive a special commemorative pin.

They close at 12:30, and anyone can contribute in Hall C at the Red Cross booth.

Last year in San Antonio, when we got there, there was a shortage of blood. When we left San Antonio, there was a plus. We went in there with a shortage, and when we left there was a plus.

We would like to do the same here.

When we came into Louisville, there was a shortage of blood, and I know that with the help of all of you, we can leave Louisville, leaving them also with a plus.

We will leave them our blood, as we left our blood on the sands of time over the years.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next speaker is an advocate of a strong national defense, a position that is certainly supported by The American Legion. His military record spans 39 years. He is a veteran of 14 campaigns in three wars. He retired from the United States Army in 1976 at the rank of Four Star General.

Currently he is the President of Stilwell Associates, and Chairman of the Korean War Memorial Advisory Commission.

Please join me in welcoming to the 70th American Legion National Convention, General Richard D. Stilwell.

GENERAL RICHARD D. STILWELL, USA (RET.)
President, Stilwell Associates, Inc.

National Commander Comer, fellow Legionnaires, I want to sign up for that blood bank, if you will have me and I am through by 12:30.

Ten days from now, in the city of Seoul, midway on the Korean peninsula, the Olympic torch will blaze and the games of the 24th Olympiad will begin.

Athletes of 161 nations, count them 161, will make that the largest international sporting competition in history, and a world event for the first time in twelve years.

For the next 16 days, it will be a gigantic coming out party for the Republic of Korea, signaling its attainment ofmajor power status, and an increasing role in world affairs.

Legionnaires have reason to be proud that our allies are host to the Olympics.

We have equal reason to be proud of a country totally devastated by war, which has risen from the ashes, clawed its way upward with the combined work ethics of a nation that has no parallel and U.S. support when critically needed.

But we have even more reason to be proud that all of this was made possible by the courage, the sacrifices and the perseverance of American men and women, who fought for the cause of freedom on that far off peninsula, on battlefields where heroism is a way of life and many in this room were among those heroes, you and you and you and you. And hundreds of thousands like you answered your country's call and donned the uniform, crossed the Pacific to defend a land that you never heard about, and a people you never met.

Had you not done so, there would be no Olympics in Korea. Indeed, there would be no Korea in the free world, and the political map of Asia would be vastly different than it is today.

Forgotten war or not, it constituted one of the finest passages in U.S. military history that had strategic consequences, all favorable and all of immense importance.

Unlike Vietnam, we checked communist expansion, and saved thirty million people from bondage.

Unlike Latin America, so eloquently described yesterday by General Woerner, the region that is Northeast Asia is politically stable. Northeast Asia is politically stable, dynamic and answering to the basic needs of all of its citizens.

It is one tremendous success story. Over the years The American Legion, consistent with its purpose, has strongly pressed for fitting recognition for those who took part in that noble cause. To be sure there were other voices, but none louder nor more persuasive than that of the Legion.

And like, Bingo, two years ago, the Congress enacted Public Law 99-572 authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a memorial in the nation's capital honoring all, I repeat all, members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, Coast Guard, nurses and other women in uniform, those who simply did their duty and came home, no less than those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

The same law established procedures for bringing the memorial into being, and, among other things, it assigned significant responsibility to a Board of Veterans appointed by the President, which I have the honor to chair.

The March issue of The American Legion Magazine had an excellent overview of where we stood. There have been major developments subsequently, thus, I asked, and I am most grateful, for the opportunity to update this distinguished audience.

First, where is it going to be? This spring by joint resolution of the Congress the Secretary of Interior's recommendation that the memorial was of sufficient historic significance to be located on the Mall proper was approved. With that authorization in hand, several sites analyzed we honed in on one which seemed to be the best for our purposes and negotiated acceptable parameters with the National Park Service and the National Capital Memorialization Commission.

Imagine at this stage is the Lincoln Memorial and the reflecting pool goes straight down the main center aisle towards the Washington Monument in the rear. On your right, about where the California Department's sign is, is the Vietnam Memorial with access paths from the Lincoln Memorial. On your left, about where George's sign is is a six acre site, equally accessible from the Lincoln Memorial, in the center of which we will place the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Trees are forty feet high which limits the height of that memorial. We have been assured that two proforma approvals by two Commissions this week will lead on sixteen September to finally an authorization by Secretary of the Interior, Donald Hodel, and we are off and running on site.

Concurrently sixteen December we move to the design selection responsibility of our Board: We will initiate public announcement that day by all available means of a nationwide open design competition in which all Americans of voting age are eligible to participate.

The competition will be conducted in strict accordance with the established rules for such competition, national rules, and the competition will be administratively managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to ensure absolute fairness.

That kind of a competition takes time, lead time, and so our schedule envisages the final design submission by any applicant 1 May 1989 with our Board determining the winner and runners-up by 1 June 1989.

Thereafter we have got the same hurdles that we had to traverse and surmount for the location itself, but if all goes well, the American Battle Monuments Commission should be able to proceed with the contractual arrangements before the end of *1989, with a construction* completion date hopefully the spring of '91, possibly sooner.

Now, the third and final point, the other shoe to drop, has to do with the financing. The memorial by law is to be funded by private subscription, except for some seed money not yet appropriated. We estimate the cost of construction to be $5,000,000 to $6,000,000 with another $1,000,000 needed in escrow for perpetual maintenance. Thus far, we have about $2.4 million dollars in a U.S. Treasury special account, so, we have got a ways to go.

Apart from the American subsidiary of HUNDA the principle contributions have come from the other Veterans organizations to the tune of about $1,000,000. Nonetheless, we are grateful for the $11,000 that ninety-one Legion Posts have thus far contributed.

We fully appreciate that each organization has its own policies, procedures, and internal structures for assessing the validity of requests for corporate contributions and acting thereon. We can only say we hope you take that under advisement.

But there is another source. The American Legion clearly has more Korea war veterans on its roles than any other organization, and each of them has a stake, a modest stake, in seeing this project to completion, and thus we would urge, through the Departments, the Districts, and the Posts that individual contributions be encouraged.

You can tell the individual Legionnaires that we have established new standards for fund-raising. You can tell them that every dollar contributed goes directly into the United States Treasury, is formally acknowledged and can be used only, only for direct costs of construction.

You can tell them that not one cent of any money contributed can be used or diverted for overhead or other administrative costs, including fund-raising. You can tell them that if for any reason the project flounders every dollar contributed will be refunded on request. Above all you can tell them about the design concepts for the Memorial.

It serves two inter-related purposes. One, of course, is to express the gratitude of the American people for those who served the cause of freedom, but a second and inter-related purpose is to project in a most positive fashion those virtues of patriotism, willingness to sacrifice, dedication to country, to the values so eloquently described by our Vice-President an hour ago, of all participants in that war, and since those virtues have been common to those who fought for their country in other times of national crisis, as you did in the wars of this twentieth century, the memorial must radiate a message that is one that is inspirational in concept and timeless in meaning. You can tell them, therefore, that we want the people who visit that memorial to go away not sad but uplifted in spirit, and you can tell them that so long as this old soldier has any role in this project they can be assured that the end product will be one in which they can be justly proud, one which will symbolize as you demonstrated by your service, and as the President said last night, that the ultimate strength of this, our beloved nation, lies in the moral fiber, the versatility, the willingness to resist all, the resolve of the young men and women when and if our country is again embattled.

Thank you for listening and thank you, National Commander, for giving me this opportunity.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, General Stilwell, and I hope you all heed his words and get those checks rolling.

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AMERICAN LEGION'S NATIONAL SERVICE TROPHY

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This is an appropriate time to announce this year's winner of The American Legion's National Service trophy.

The award goes to the department excelling in welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents . . . and is conditional that the department membership is at least 80% of the preceding year.

And, I'm proud to announce that the winner of the 1988 National Service trophy is the Department of Minnesota.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Mr. W.F. Lenker of South Dakota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, for the purpose of making a report.

* * *

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

W.F. Lenker, (SD) Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Commander, fellow Legionnaires, and Delegates.

Eighty-eight members of your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation met at 9:00 a.m. on September 4, 1988 in Rooms 201 and 202, of the Commonwealth Convention Center, and again on September 7, 1988, in Room 117 of the Commonwealth Convention Center, and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Committee was called to order by John F. Sommer, Jr., Ohio, Liaison Representative appointed by the National Adjutant to act as temporary chairman. Harold T. Kelly, Assistant Director for Operations, acted as temporary secretary and called the roll. A quorum being present, nominations were received for permanent chairman. William F. Lenker, South Dakota, Chairman of the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Convention Committee.

With unanimous consent, the Chairman appointed Chester F. Stellar, Ohio, as Committee Secretary; A.V. (Bubba) Akin, Georgia, Chairman, and William Barbknecht, Minnesota, Secretary respectively of the Medical and Hospital Subcommittee; and Val Likens, Iowa, Chairman, and Mike D'Arco, New Mexico, Secretary, respectively of the Claims and Rating Subcommittee.

Subcommittee liaison assignments were as follows: John F. Sommer, Jr., Director, and Harry K. Bennett, Assistant Director for Program Management, to Medical and Hospital; and Philip R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for Information Management, and Harold T. Kelly, Assistant Director for Operations, to Claims and Rating.

The following officials were present from the Veterans Administration:

John Vogel, Chief Benefits Director
Donald L. Ivers, General Counsel
Kenneth E. Eaton, Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals
John Hagan, Director, VARO, Louisville
Harold F. Gracey, Executive Assistant to the Chief Benefits Director
Edwin L. Arnold, Veterans Service Organization Liaison

As has been the custom for the 44 previous National Conventions, a special Department Service Officers Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions, in a three day preconvention meeting, screened and grouped the resolutions. A report of their analysis, with recommendations, was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The Convention Committee expressed appreciation of the fine work performed by this Screening Committee in analyzing the resolutions. They conserved the time of the Convention Committee substantially. The Screening Committee was composed of the following Department Service Officers.

Region 1—Milton Willis, Jr., Vermont
Region 2—Samuel M. Black, Virginia
Region 3—John B. Tyndall, North Carolina
Region 4—Irvin Walker, Oklahoma
Region 5—John Cryan, Illinois

The Convention Committee recommends that such a committee be appointed for this purpose to serve the Seventy-first National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The 110 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions presented for consideration of this convention were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from 26 Departments. Nine resolutions emanated from the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. These resolutions are classified as follows:

Policy	54
National Cemeteries	3
Medical and Hospital	26
VA Hospitals	6
Claims and Rating	26
Vocational Rehabilitation and Education	2
Insurance	1
Department of Defense	1

The following action on the resolutions was taken by the Convention Committee:

Approved or Approved as amended	61
Consolidated with resolutions approved	18
Received and Recorded	5
Referred to the Standing Commission	27
Rejected	8

A report of action taken on the 27 resolutions referred to the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission will be made to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutant of the Department concerned, and, in addition, will be contained in the National Adjutant's report to the Seventy-first Annual National Convention.

In each category, the resolutions are arranged in sequence to permit orderly consideration of related topics by this Convention.

APPROVED OR APPROVED AS AMENDED RESOLUTIONS POLICY

Res No: 138 (North Dakota) Subject: **Oppose Any Proposal That Would Consolidate or Centralize Operations Of The Veterans Administration Regional Offices**

WHEREAS, VA Regional Offices were established to provide a more expeditious method of providing services to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, Because of federal budgetary restrictions, VA Regional Offices are presently encountering difficulties in providing such services; and

WHEREAS, Any consolidation or reassignment of workload in VA Regional Offices would seriously inhibit and disrupt the veteran's ability to receive timely and responsible services from the VA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any proposal to centralize or reassign veterans' claims processing services.

Res No: 204 (Wisconsin) Subject: **The American Legion Policy Regarding Federal Social Security Programs**

WHEREAS, Social Security is a contributory program established for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to eligible individuals in their status of citizens of the United States, and regardless of their status as veterans of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid are not veterans assistance programs, and, therefore, are not germane to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 30, approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during its November 1957 meeting declared it to be the policy of The American Legion to:

"1. Oppose any legislative or administrative attempts to merge programs administered by the Veterans Administration with Federal Social Security benefits programs; and

"2. Sponsor or support only such amendments to the Social Security Act as would correct defects or deficiencies in the Act which affect veterans, their dependents, or in-service personnel"; and

WHEREAS, Any change to the Social Security laws, whether by legislative or administrative action, would have no effect on benefits payable to pension recipients under Public Law 95-588, because of the manner in which the program is structured by the language included in such law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion does hereby reiterate its policy regarding Federal Social Security Programs, to wit:

1. The American Legion shall oppose any legislative or administrative attempts to merge programs administered by the VA with Federal Social Security benefits programs; and

2. The American Legion shall sponsor or support only such amendments to the Social Security Act as amended as would correct defects or deficiencies in the Act which affect veterans, their dependents or in-service personnel; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall not adopt positions relating to programs operating under the Social Security Act as amended unless such programs directly affect veterans and their dependents as a class

Res No: 205 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Oppose Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery Contracting Out of Services Deemed Essential For Delivery of Integrated Quality Medical Care To Eligible Veterans**

WHEREAS, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76, dated March 29, 1979 as revised, established for Federal Agencies "Policies for acquiring commercial or industrial products and services needed by the Government"; and

WHEREAS, The present Administration instructed all Departments and Agencies to implement Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, It is clear that Circular A-76 impacts seriously on the Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, The Congress responded to the critical situation that was developing in connection with implementing of the OMB policy by passing legislation that was enacted into law which prohibits use of funds appropriated for VA medical care to carry out cost comparison studies for Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget is circumventing the intent of Congress by continuing its efforts to impose contracting-out on the Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, It is the judgment of The American Legion that the commercial contracting-out of services provided to veterans by VA Department of Medicine and Surgery has adversely affected the quality and timeliness of care delivered to sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion opposes and will continue to oppose those efforts of the Office of Management and Budget that tend to fractionate the Veterans Administration as the sole Federal Agency responsible for the delivery of quality hospital and medical service to the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion vigorously oppose the Veterans Administration contracting-out of services or activities deemed essential for retention in Veterans Administration medical care facilities in order to ensure the timely delivery of quality health care to the nation's veterans.

Res No: 228 (Indiana) Subject: **The American Legion Policy On The Co-Location of Veterans Administration Facilities**

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Benefits of the Veterans Administration administers a broad range of benefits and services to veterans and other eligible beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, DVB carries out its activities through 59 Regional Offices with at least one located in every State, and in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through its accredited representatives, provides much needed assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in the development and presentation of claims for Veterans Administration benefits at the Regional Office; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to reduce unnecessary expenditures, and to counter increasing rent costs, several Regional Offices have been co-located with VA Medical Centers; and

WHEREAS, Studies are being conducted at several additional locations to determine the feasibility of co-location which, if found to increase efficiency, would take place during the period from 1988 through 1991; and

WHEREAS, It has been the experience of The American Legion that the Regional Office and Medical Center complexes that have been implemented to date are providing accessible, one-stop service to veterans, and desirable working conditions for Department Service Officers and VA employees; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that a co-location plan that takes into consideration the availability of transportation and the accessibility of facilities for VA beneficiaries, particularly the disabled and elderly will prove to be a cost-effective means of providing service to veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion, based on a case by case review, support those proposals to co-locate Veterans Administration Regional Offices and Medical Centers where such combination of activities will provide maximum accessibility and convenience to veterans, dependents and survivors, and that will be cost-effective through the combination of administrative and support services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any such proposal that is inconsiderate of the needs of VA beneficiaries for adequate transportation and immediate accessibility, and that would not be situated at a location that would provide maximum availability of personal services to the veteran population residing in the jurisdiction of the Regional Office.

Res No: 229 (Indiana) Subject: **Urge The President and the Congress of The United States to Provide Adequate Funding to Enable the Veterans Administration to Offer "State of the Art" Medical Care to Eligible Veterans**

WHEREAS, One of the most important benefits provided by a grateful nation to its veterans is the Veterans Administration health care program; and

WHEREAS, The VA health care program is being restricted in its ability to provide care to the maximum number of veterans who are eligible and apply for such care, by reason of funding limitations imposed by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion does not believe it is fair, nor in accord with the wishes of the American people that the needs of sick and disabled veterans be sacrificed on the altar of fiscal austerity; and

WHEREAS, The size of the present veteran population, occasioned by the four American wars of the Twentieth Century, is now approximately 28 million; and

WHEREAS, Not more than approximately 10% of these 28 million veterans are regular users of the VA system, these being the service disabled and the oldest, the sickest and the poorest of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, The advancing age of World War II veteran population is placing special needs and demands on the VA system, for more specialized and long-term types of care; and

WHEREAS, These needs and demands will continue to increase through the balance of this Century, and into the Twenty-first Century; and

WHEREAS, The funding provided for veterans health care has not kept pace with inflation during the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, The system is in continuing need of large scale funding for the renovation and replacement of outdated facilities by reason of past neglect of these needs; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in

Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion petition the President and the Congress of the United States:

1. Not to limit the eligibility of the nation's veterans to VA health care benefits, and
2. To provide adequate funding to the Veterans Administration to enable it to continue to offer "state of the art" medical care to those veterans who are eligible for, and need and apply for such care; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall oppose, with the maximum of its energy and resources, any and all efforts, from whatever source, to restrict, curtail or to eliminate the entitlement of honorably discharged veterans to health care from the Veterans Administration, wherever and whenever such care is needed and applied for by such veterans.

Res No: 247 (Arizona) Subject: **Urge The VA To Plan and Develop a Comprehensive Health Care Program and Related Services For The Aging Veteran**

WHEREAS, The median age of the 134,000 WWI veterans is now 91, and the median age of the 9.7 million WWII veterans is now approximately 67; and

WHEREAS, By the year 2000 the number of veterans over age 65 will be almost 9 million; and

WHEREAS, At that time those over 65 years of age will represent 76% of all males in that age group; and

WHEREAS, Within the next 10 years the Veterans Administration will have to change its configuration of services to be able to counsel and assist this large number of aging veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is acutely aware of the need for these new services that will have to be developed, and that every effort must be made to assist these aging veterans, thus helping them to live out their remaining years in comfort and dignity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Veterans Administration to prepare and submit to the Congress a comprehensive plan that would detail its proposals to deliver health care and related services to the aging veteran.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 238 (MN)

Res No: 248 (Arizona) Subject: **Oppose Any and All Proposals For Further Reductions In Any of The Veterans Benefit Programs**

WHEREAS, The current Veterans Administration appropriation for veterans benefits and programs is less than 3% of the total appropriations for the Federal Government, as it has been for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, Veterans programs are not consuming an increasing share of the Federal dollar; and

WHEREAS, While it would appear that the Veterans Administration budget is continually growing, the cost of veterans programs, in real dollars, is actually decreasing; and

WHEREAS, There are suggested recommendations which, if carried out, would not only transfer practically all of the Veterans Administration's current programs to other Federal agencies, but would likewise eventually eliminate the Veterans Administration entirely; and

WHEREAS, The beneficiaries of all these programs and services are either the service disabled and their dependents and survivors, the aged, or those seeking pension benefits based on real need; and

WHEREAS, Over the past several years some veterans benefits have been eliminated, and each time there is an austerity program within the Federal Government, systematic attempts are made to reduce appropriations for Veterans Administration programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, and will continue to make known to all segments of government, that it stands for full funding for veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion will not accede to or in any way agree to further erosion or elimination of veterans benefits for the purpose of reducing the Federal deficit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall oppose any and all proposals for further reductions in any of the veterans benefit programs.

Res No: 249 (Arizona) Subject: **Urge The Congress to Provide Sufficient Funding to Enable the VA to Utilize All Available Modalities to Assure Health Care For The Maximum Number of Veterans Who Seek Such Care**

WHEREAS, The right of veterans to preferred treatment as a special class by reason of their military service has been long established as public policy supported by specific legislation extending throughout the history of our country; and

WHEREAS, Each time there is an austerity program within the Federal Government, systematic attempts are made to reduce appropriations for Veterans Administration programs; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration was especially created to coordinate and consolidate Federal activities in the administration of laws providing benefits to veterans; and

WHEREAS, Provision of Title 38, United States Code, provides the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, within the limits of Veterans Administration facilities, to furnish needed hospital care to any veteran for a nonservice-connected disability if such veteran is unable to defray the expense of such hospital care; and

WHEREAS, There is a developing need for the Veterans Administration to undertake expansion of existing facilities, especially clinics, and to utilize innovative measures being developed in the fields of medical technology and therapeutic modalities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Congress of the United States to provide sufficient funding to enable the Veterans Administration to utilize all modalities available in the health care field, to assure available care for the maximum number of veterans who need and apply for such care.

Res No: 250 (Arizona) Subject: **Oppose Those Reorganization Plans That Would Transfer From The Veterans Administration Sole Jurisdiction of Any Veterans Benefits and Service Program**

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration was especially created for or concerned in the administration of all laws relating to the relief and other benefits provided by the law for veterans, their dependents and their beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, From time to time, legislative or administrative reorganization plans are presented to merge jurisdiction and administration of veterans programs with those provided for non-veterans and under the administration of another Federal agency; and

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of The American Legion that the Veterans Administration must be continued as the one agency in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government for the programs provided by law for veterans, their dependents and their survivors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall continue to exert every effort, influence, and resource to assure rejection of those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and service programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support continuation of the Veterans Administration as the sole agency in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government responsible for the administration and execution of benefits and service programs provided by law for veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Res No: 278 (Iowa) Subject: **Continued American Legion Opposition To Means Test and Third Party Reimbursement**

WHEREAS, The 99th Congress adopted and the President approved Public Law 99-272, the Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1985; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 99-272 included Title XIX, the Veterans Health Care Amendments of 1986; and

WHEREAS, The means test requires that certain veterans seeking care from the Veterans Administration for nonservice-connected conditions pay a deductible for inpatient care and co-payment for outpatient care; and

WHEREAS, Third party reimbursement requires that certain veterans who have private health care insurance authorize payment to VA of benefits under such private health insurance; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion opposed enactment of the means test and the third party reimbursement provisions of PL 99-272 as legislation that was unnecessary and inappropriate; and

WHEREAS, The means test and third party reimbursement have in fact effected essential changes in the nature of the VA health care program by making it a cost-sharing program rather than a benefit program as intended by the American people, acting in their concern for the men and women who have defended the national interest in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, VA has now completed over one year's experience with application of the means test and third party reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Experience so far has established that the overwhelming majority of veterans seeking VA health care are from either one of the excepted categories of veterans, or represent the oldest, poorest and sickest among the veteran population, as well as other economically deprived veterans; and

WHEREAS, Billings by VA to private health insurers have so far resulted in insignificant recoveries to VA; and

WHEREAS, The cost of administering the means test and third party reimbursement has so far resulted in significant increase in administrative costs with appreciable reduction in caseload to the VA health care program; and

WHEREAS, Increase in administrative actions required by the means test and third party reimbursement have appreciably slowed the admissions process in VA medical centers and clinics, adversely affecting both service-connected and nonservice-connected admission processes; and

WHEREAS, The single gain to veterans from Public Law 99-272 has been the creation of an entitlement to care to certain deserving classes of veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion approves and espouses the single gain to veterans aforementioned, but does not believe the additional problems for VA and inconvenience to deserving veterans are justified by any gain to the government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support amendatory legislation to Public Law 99-272 and Title XIX of the Act that shall retain the entitlement provisions of the Act while eliminating the requirements for the means test and third party reimbursement.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 321 (MA)

Res No: 281 (Iowa) Subject: **Urges That Veterans Compensation, Pension And Readjustment Allowances Not Be Considered As Benefits And Entitlements, But Shall Be Considered As Rights**

WHEREAS, It was the intent of the Congress of the United States from the beginning of our Republic to make just and reasonable restitution for the service and sacrifice of those who served in defense of this nation; and

WHEREAS, The Continental Congress on April 23, 1782, enacted legislation establishing the first program of disability compensation for life for those injured or disabled during the Revolutionary War and other compensation systems for all the officers and men who served in the War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, Successive Congresses and administrations have recognized this obligation and reaffirmed our commitment to those who have served in nine succeeding major armed conflicts, expanding this obligation in Abraham Lincoln's words: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan"; and

WHEREAS, In this century alone, Americans have been called to arms four times in defense of freedom, union, and prosperity while the United States Government has responded by developing an integrated system of medical, education, rehabilitation, compensation and pension programs of incalculable human benefits; and

WHEREAS, Recent history has seen an erosion in the integrity and support for these programs in direct contradiction to the meaning and value originally placed upon them; and

WHEREAS, The degradation of these programs has been fostered on the battlefield of transient political and budget expediency rather than the arena of national conscience and honor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that veterans medical, compensation, pension and readjustment allowances shall not be considered mere benefits and entitlements under the law, but shall be considered rights.

Res No: 282 (Iowa) Subject: **Oppose Any Legislative Or Administrative Proposals That Would Amend The Eligibility Criteria Of The Plot Allowance For Veterans By Making It Consistent With The Current Eligibility Requirements For Burial Allowance**

WHEREAS, The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (PL 97-35), enacted as a cost-saving measure, eliminated the $300 burial benefit payable toward the funeral expense of a deceased veteran except from those veterans receiving disability compensation, nonservice-connected pension, or who die in a VA hospital; and

WHEREAS, For thousands of war veterans who never approached the Veterans Administration for any kind of a benefit during their lifetime, the only recognition received for their honorable military service was the $300 burial benefit payable upon their death; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently stated that Congress made a serious mistake when it restricted the eligibility criteria for burial allowance; and

WHEREAS, The Administration, in its proposed VA Budget for Fiscal Year 1989, has included a legislative initiative to amend Section 903 of Title 38, United States Code, to change the eligibility criteria for the $150 plot allowance by making it consistent with the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance; and

• WHEREAS, Many families of veterans are in poor financial circumstances having little or no means to provide a decent and respectable funeral for the veterans to which they are justly entitled; and

WHEREAS, National cemeteries are not always located near centers of populations, thus precluding many veterans from utilizing them; and

WHEREAS, The majority of veterans desire to be buried in family burial plots, or in cemeteries nearest their homes; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is mandated to seek the restoration of the former eligibility criteria for the burial allowance to all veterans, and to increase the amount of the plot allowance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any legislative or administrative proposal that would amend the eligibility criteria of the plot allowance for veterans by making it consistent with the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance.

Res No: 283 (Iowa) Subject: **Oppose Any and All Recommendations Of The Presidential Task Force That Would Eliminate Or Curtail Veterans Benefits Or Hospital Care and Treatment**

WHEREAS, A President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Controls (the so-called Grace Commission) has recommended a number of changes regarding VA's management of its benefits and health care programs; and

WHEREAS, The suggested recommendations, if carried out, would result in the transfer of practically all of the VA's current programs to other Federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force's Report on Federal Hospital Management is laced with inaccurate data, misconstrued information, and hastily compiled recommendations that were made with very little in-depth investigation; and

WHEREAS, The validity of the entire report, especially the recommendations offered, is questionable from the start; and

WHEREAS, The underlying theme of eventually eliminating the Veterans Administration is prevalent throughout the report, and is not supported by accurate information or facts; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that most of the recommendations contained in the Task Force Report completely ignored the various important factors unique to veterans and their programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion additionally believes the Task Force recommendations were based on questionable methodologies, incomplete, outdated, and faulty data, thus arriving at invalid conclusions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any and all recommendations of the Presidential Task Force that would eliminate or curtail veterans benefits or hospital care and treatment.

Res No: 285 (Iowa) Subject: **Urge The Administrator of Veterans Affairs To Revise The Eligibility Verification Report**

WHEREAS, Veterans, dependents and survivors who are in receipt of nonservice-connected disability or death pension or parents DIC are required to report their actual and anticipated income to the Veterans Administration on an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) for the purpose of establishing continued eligibility for such benefits; and

WHEREAS, Prior to October 1985, an Annual Income Questionnaire (AIQ) was provided by VA for the purpose of reporting such income; and

WHEREAS, The AIQ contained information that is not on the EVR relative to the amount of income reported by the beneficiary the previous year, and the amount of the Veterans Administration award; and

WHEREAS, This record of income information is extremely important, particularly to beneficiaries who are elderly or ill, in ensuring that they report their income accurately on the current EVR; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion feels that the provision of such preprinted income information would alleviate a large number of overpayments and other administrative problems; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to revise the Eligibility Verification Report for nonservice-connected disability and death pension and parents DIC by including the income information that was reported by the beneficiary the prior year, as was previously contained on the Annual Income Questionnaire.

Res No: 286 (Iowa) Subject: **Urge The President of the United States And The Congress To Provide Full Funding For All Veterans Programs**

WHEREAS, The Act of July 3, 1930 authorized the establishment of the Veterans Administration as an independent agency in the Executive Branch of the Government; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration was especially created to coordinate and consolidate Federal activities in the administration of laws providing benefits for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The laws administered by the Veterans Administration authorizing benefits for former members of the Armed Forces, for their dependents and for beneficiaries of deceased former members of such forces are classified into the following general categories:

Compensation for service-connected disabilities and death
Pensions for income maintenance of veterans and survivors
Educational and training assistance and loans
Servicemen's Life Insurance-Veterans Life Insurance
Hospital and medical care services
Nursing home and domiciliary care, including State Veterans
Home construction funds
Health manpower training
Medical and prosthetic research
Burial benefits; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Administration compiled and projected statistics indicated that 28 million veterans have potential eligibility for benefits of one type or another, and counting dependents and survivors that about 44% of the total population of the United States are potential recipients of benefits and associated services administered by the Veterans Administration and

WHEREAS, Any reduction in appropriations and outlays for the Veterans Administration recommended by the Office of Management and Budget may be affected only by cutting service to eligible veterans in the areas associated with medical care, medical administration, medical and prosthetic research, general operating expenses (the fund account providing administrative and operating expenses of the Adjudication Services), and delay needed modification, modernization, and construction of hospital and nursing bed care facilities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion call to the attention of the President of the United States, and of Congress that the benefits provided by law to veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries, are in fulfillment of a sacred obligation of the nation to its defenders, and are not to be sacrificed on the alter of fiscal austerity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion make known to all officers of government that it stands for full funding of veterans programs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the President of the United States and the Congress to assign the highest budgetary priority to the provisions of funds for the administration and delivery of veterans benefits, and all activities appertaining thereto.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 41 (WV)

Res No: 290 (Iowa) Subject: **Urges The Congress In Funding VA Health Care Programs To Assign A High Priority To The VA Alcohol And Drug Treatment And Rehabilitation Programs**

WHEREAS, Alcohol abuse and alcoholism continues to be one of the most significant factors adversely affecting the health and welfare of veterans of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Drug abuse and drug addiction also constitutes a serious hazard to the health and welfare of many veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration has an ongoing program of treatment and rehabilitation, functioning in many of its hospitals and clinics; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has and does provide full support for this program; and

WHEREAS, With due respect to the scope of the alcohol and drug problem among veterans, the continued expansion of the program to additional VA hospitals and clinics is clearly indicated and also that 24 hour service be provided at holding areas in said VA hospitals; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion considers the further expansion of the VA's Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program to be a vital element of the Veterans Administration medical care program for veterans; and

WHEREAS, There needs to be more consistency and coordination among the programs conducted in the various VA hospitals and clinics; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urges the Veterans Administration to proceed with dispatch to coordinate the elements of the various alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation programs in its hospitals and clinics, to effectuate a national program encompassing the most effective treatment modalities now approved and in use in the health care field; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Congress, in funding Veterans Administration health care programs, to assign high priority to VA alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, and to maintain active oversight of programs and effectiveness of such programs.

Res No: 229 (Virginia) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend Title 38, USC, So As To Provide Benefits To Veterans Of The Armed Forces Of Canada Residing In The United States, Similar To Those Provided To Veterans Of The U.S. Armed Forces Residing In Canada**

WHEREAS, Veterans' laws of the Dominion of Canada provide that veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in either World War I or World War II and have resided in Canada for a total of ten years or more may be eligible to receive the War Veterans Allowance; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who receive a War Veterans Allowance are also eligible, while in Canada, to receive medical and domiciliary care at the expense of the Canadian Government; and

WHEREAS, Section 109(a) of Title 38, United States Code, provides that medical care and other benefits may be provided to veterans of armed forces allied with the United States in World War I or World War II upon request of the proper officials of such governments and under agreements requiring the reimbursement in cash to the government of the United States for the cost of expenses so incurred; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-491, approved October 14, 1975, provided hospital and domiciliary care to any person who served during World War I or World War II as a member of any armed force of the Government of Czechoslovakia or Poland and participated while so serving in armed conflict with an enemy of the United States and who has been a citizen of the United States for at least ten years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it is fitting and proper that the United States should extend entitlement to nonservice-connected disability pension, medical and domiciliary care to veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces residing in the U.S. in a manner reciprocal to benefits provided veterans of the United States Armed Forces residing in Canada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, so that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs may provide benefits to veterans of the Armed Forces of Canada residing in the United States, similar to those provided to veterans of U.S. Armed Forces residing in Canada.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 202 (WI)

Res No: 309 (Virginia) Subject: **Sponsor and Support Legislation to Amend Title 38, USC, So As To Establish The "Veterans Reassurance Act of 1989:**

WHEREAS, From the time of its founding in 1919, The American Legion has been committed to the interests and the well-being of all veterans, their dependents and survivors who are in need of veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, Provision of the World War Veterans Act of 1924 recognized The American Legion and certain other veterans organizations for the presentation of veterans claims, and a 1936 amendment to the Act limited such recognition to accredited representatives of the recognized veterans organizations; and

WHEREAS, Accredited representatives of The American Legion have the ability to assist veterans, dependents and survivors in securing benefits, but the responsibility for rendering decisions as to entitlement rests solely with the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration has historically been charged with the responsibility of the development of claims; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has challenged the agency on occasion as it has not always developed claims to the fullest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, The adjudication and appeal processes of the Veterans Administration as set forth in Title 38, United States Code, are frequently criticized by some as being so flawed as to require court action to rectify erroneous decisions in individual benefit claims; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that the Veterans Administration is beset with a variety of complex administrative and budgetary problems, including persistent personnel cuts in the Department of Veterans Benefits as a result of budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives a need for improvement in due process procedures, quality control, and the need for a more independent governmental oversight of VA procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals is currently bound by VA regulations, policies, and General Counsel precedent opinions which sometimes hinder its ability to rule favorably on an otherwise meritorious claim; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion considers the current $10.00 limitation on attorney fees to be antiquated and unjustified; and

WHEREAS, Although The American Legion has opposed the amendment of 38 USC 211(a), so as to authorize judicial review of decisions of individual claims, the organization has historically supported complete judicial review of regulations and other constitutional issues; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals is not, and has not been as independent of the Veterans Administration as The American Legion feels is appropriate and necessary and the adjudication and appellate processes of the Veterans Administration should be improved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation that will set forth the following amendments to Title 38, United States Code:

1. Clarify the existing rights to limited judicial review of determinations by the Board of Veterans Appeals on issues involving a challenge to the validity of VA regulations or other constitutional issues;
2. Provide a reasonable and responsible increase in the fee in which claimants may be charged by private attorneys for legal representation in claims;
3. Any additional amendments deemed necessary upon further review, to improve the adjudication and appeal processes of the Veterans Administration;
4. Limit the liability of an individual accredited representative and the recognized organization with whom he or she is associated, in the case of an injury arising from the investigation, preparation, presentation or prosecution of a claim;
5. Add a new section to protect the privacy of communications between claimants and their representatives;
6. Provide for due process notification to an appellant concerning consideration of newly developed additional evidence in a claim, to include the notification of the right to a personal hearing on such additional evidence;
7. Provide for a personal hearing in the course of the review of a claim, to set forth the circumstances which a finally disallowed claim may be reopened, and to provide the board of Veterans Appeals broader authority and independence in its review of claims;
8. Include a new manner in which to provide a means satisfactory to The American Legion for resolving differences in medical opinions material to the outcome of a case;
9. Provide statutory procedures to be followed by the Veterans Administration in conducting a hearing, investigation or any other proceeding in conjunction with the consideration of a claim for VA benefits;
10. Set forth provisions for notice to the claim of all material procedural rights at each stage of a claim;
11. Remove from the Board the obligation to adhere to the regulations, policies and General Counsel precedent opinions, and authorize the Board to challenge the validity of VA regulations, statements of general policy and interpretations of general applicability;
12. Subject the promulgation of rules and regulations by the Administrator to the administrative procedures law.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 339 (PA)

Res No: 310 (Virginia) Subject: **The American Legion Policy On Agent Orange**

WHEREAS, The chemical herbicide commonly known as Agent Orange was sprayed throughout Vietnam during the years 1962-1971, to defoliate jungle and rice paddies; and

WHEREAS, The total long-range toxic effects of the defoliant, of which in excess of 10.6 million gallons were reportedly expended by American military forces, remain virtually unknown; and

WHEREAS, The chemical mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, which contains a certain amount of the chemical dioxin, has been subject to partial bans by the Environmental Protection Agency following reports of spontaneous abortions and stillbirths in areas where heavily used in the United States; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of service personnel serving in Vietnam were exposed to these toxic chemicals and have subsequently developed cancer, neurological disorders, liver dysfunction, severe depression, and other life-threatening diseases; and

WHEREAS, These veterans are now seeking benefits from the VA, to which they believe they are justly entitled, by reason of disease and disability incurred through exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been strongly supportive of the studies and research being conducted by the Air Force, the Centers for Disease Control, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, the Veterans Administration, etc., on Agent Orange, and has urged the Federal Government to proceed without delay using all resources available, to ascertain with scientific validity the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who were exposed to it during their active military service; and

WHEREAS, The study of the long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure that was mandated by Congress in 1979, and turned over to the Centers for Disease Control by the VA in 1983, became mired in major methodological problems; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control has now concluded that the agency cannot find enough Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange to do a scientifically valid study of the herbicide's effects on humans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is troubled by CDC's conclusion, particularly since a substantial percentage of the original study subjects were disqualified based upon criteria set forth by CDC; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aggressively assisting and counseling veterans in the filing and development of claims for benefits provided under Title 38, United States Code, and referring those individuals claiming exposure to the persons responsible for the Agent Orange examination program at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic for an appropriate examination; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 98-542, the "Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act", provided the Veterans Administration with the authority to determine the disabilities related to Agent Orange exposure based on its interpretation of scientific and medical evidence; and

WHEREAS, The only condition that has been recognized by the Veterans Administration since the law was enacted in 1984 is the skin condition chloracne, if it is manifested not later than three months from the date of the veteran's exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of Vietnam veterans have expressed displeasure with the manner in which they were attended to during their Agent Orange examination at a VA medical facility; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the President, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exert whatever pressure is necessary to resolve the administrative and methodological problems existing within the Centers for Disease Control that have placed the comprehensive study of the toxic effects of Agent Orange exposure in jeopardy of cancellation; and that The American Legion take any and all other steps necessary to ensure that the Congressional mandate set forth for the study in PL 96-151 is followed, and that the study is completed as expediently as possible; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in these projects; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion bring to the attention of the Veterans Administration and its Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, any and all information and scientific and medical evidence relating to possible adverse health effects of exposure to Agent Orange for the purpose of expanding the list of disabilities for which service connection may be granted; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate the most current responsible information on Agent Orange to Legionnaires, Vietnam veterans and their families, and the public through all resources available to transmit such information; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to make careful observation of the

Veterans Administration's Agent Orange examination program to determine whether or not Vietnam veterans reporting to VA medical care facilities claiming exposure are being appropriately examined, and that the examining physicians demonstrate both compassion and thoroughness in the way they receive, examine and treat all Vietnam veterans who present themselves alleging dioxin exposure.

Res No: 312 (Virginia) Subject: **Oppose Granting a Federal Charter To The National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been the major voice and representative for veterans and their dependents at all levels of government for more than sixty (60) years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, the largest veterans organization in the United States, was founded upon service to all war veterans and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, This service has been provided at no cost to veterans or to the taxpayers of the individual states; and

WHEREAS, The State Directors of Veterans Affairs are usually political appointees who project the policies and creeds of the party in power; and

WHEREAS, To grant a Congressional Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs would be recognizing an association of state employees instead of a veterans organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any Congressional action that would grant a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

Res No: 313 (Virginia) Subject: **Oppose Legislation That Would Authorize Judicial Review of Decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs**

WHEREAS, Certain veterans groups and others strongly support that the appeal process as set forth in Title 38, United States Code, be changed to permit judicial review in the Federal Courts; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to the interests and the well-being of all veterans, their dependents and survivors who seek benefits from the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, From the time of its founding in 1919, The American Legion has provided direct assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in filing, developing and presenting claims for benefits from the VA without cost to the veteran or other claimant, and without regard to membership in The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The experience of The American Legion in more than sixty years of claims work has demonstrated that the present system of claims that is administered by VA works to the best advantage of the claimant in that it does not involve cost to the veteran, is not an adversary proceeding and permits the informal presentation of evidence that operates to the advantage of the claimant; and

WHEREAS, There has been introduced in the Congress, legislation that would permit claimants for benefits from VA to institute litigation in the Federal Courts, in furtherance of their claims; and

WHEREAS, Such litigation is presently not permitted by reason of the provisions of Section 211(a) of Title 38, United States Code, which provisions codify existing law; and

WHEREAS, All claimants seeking benefits from VA have the right as do all citizens, to seek judicial relief in matters involving their constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, The changes in adjudication of veterans claims included in the pending legislation would mandate and enhance a legal adversarial relationship between the Veterans Administration and veterans, requiring that the veteran have an attorney represent him/her in the proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Under this proposal the appeals system would become more rigid, less sympathetic to the veteran, require large expenditures for attorneys' fees, lose the present informality the veteran enjoys, increase the time delays in the appeal process because of filled court calendars, make the VA an adversary to the people it is supposed to serve; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of its long experience in claims work, The American Legion is convinced that claimants presently receive more consideration under due process within the VA system of adjudication of claims than would be provided by judicial review; and

WHEREAS, The prospect of the claimant paying in any fashion to obtain benefits due him from the Government of the United States as would have to be done in the instance of litigation, is abhorrent to The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall continue to oppose the enactment of any measure that would amend 38 USC 211(a), so as to authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs except as presently authorized in 38 USC 755 and 784, and Chapter 37 of such title.

Res No: 317 (Virginia) Subject: **Urges the President, the Veterans Administration, and the Congress to Reverse the Reductions of Personnel in the Department of Veterans Benefits to Assure the Continued Delivery of Service to Veterans and Their Dependents**

WHEREAS, The timely delivery of benefits to veterans, their dependents and survivors is an important responsibility of the Department of Veterans Benefits of the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The quality of work performed by personnel assigned to DVB, determines to a great extent whether beneficiaries do in fact receive the benefits to which they are entitled by law; and

WHEREAS, Those who seek benefits from the Veterans Administration are veterans and members of their families who need those benefits to alleviate the effects of active military service, or because they find themselves bereaved, in ill health and economic need; and

WHEREAS, The fulfillment of its responsibilities to these beneficiaries is a sacred duty charged to the Veterans Administration by the Congress; and

WHEREAS, In the face of these duties and responsibilities, the DVB has experienced a reduction in personnel over the past seven fiscal years, and will probably experience another such reduction during Fiscal Year 1989; and

WHEREAS, These reductions have been approved by Congress through the Appropriations measure and on the recommendation of the President's Budget submittal to the Congress; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has satisfied itself that the reductions in personnel in DVB experienced during the past seven years have, in fact adversely affected the ability of DVB to fulfill its responsibilities in delivery of benefits; and

WHEREAS, This adverse effect has resulted in hardship and loss to veterans, their dependents and survivors; and

WHEREAS, These actions by Congress and the Executive Branch are unjustified and unfair to the beneficiaries of the VA; and

WHEREAS, In fulfillment of its own duty to champion the cause of all veterans and their families, it is necessary for The American Legion to protest these failures of the Government; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion calls upon the President, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and the Congress to reverse the consistent and persistent staffing reductions, and restore a sufficient number of personnel to assure the ability of the Department of Veterans Benefits of the Veterans Administration to provide the timely delivery of services and benefits to veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 323 (MA) and 442 (GA).

I would like to turn over to continue reading this report to Chester Stellar the Secretary of the Convention Committee.

. . . Committee Secretary Chester F. Stellar, Ohio, continued the report of the Committee as follows:

Res No: 441 (Georgia) Subject: **Urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to Amend 38 CFR 3.301(c)(2) Thereby Recognizing Alcoholism As a Defense**

WHEREAS, Every Federal agency except the Veterans Administration considers alcoholism to be a pathological disease; and

WHEREAS, The regulations set forth under 38 CFR 3.301(c)(2) describe alcoholism as willful misconduct which precludes entitlement to most benefits administered by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, "Willful misconduct" is described in the definitions under 38 CFR 3.1(n) as an act involving conscious wrongdoing or known prohibited action (malum in se or malum prohibitum); and

WHEREAS, The "willful misconduct" regulations were promulgated by the Veterans Administration in the absence of a Congressional mandate; and

WHEREAS, Alcoholism is recognized as a disease that is innocently acquired through the legal and socially acceptable practice of consuming alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans and their families are being discriminated against because of the archaic restrictions contained in the "willful misconduct" regulations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion strongly urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to amend 38 CFR 3.301(c) so as to remove the stigma that has been attached to the disease of alcoholism by eliminating subsection (2) which sets forth specific applications of the terms "in line of duty" and "willful misconduct" with respect to alcoholism for the purpose of determining entitlement to service-connected and nonservice-connected benefits administered by the Veterans Administration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if the Administrator declines to take action to correct the inequity of rating alcoholism as a misconduct condition, rather than as a pathological disease, The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to correct aforesaid inequity by statute.

Res No: 443 (Georgia) Subject: **Oppose Taxing Compensation Payments Paid by the Veterans Administration to Service-Connected Disabled Veterans**

WHEREAS, The Administration's Tax Reform Plan had originally included provision to tax VA compensation payments to service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The current rates for compensation benefits are predicated upon the fact that such benefits are not subject to taxation; and

WHEREAS, Taxation of such VA benefits would adversely affect the financial security of our nation's disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Taxation of veterans' compensation would represent a breach of faith with this category of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions have been passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate expressing the sense of Congress that VA compensation should not be taxed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion totally oppose any initiative to tax compensation payments paid by the VA to service-connected disabled veterans.

Res No: 444 (Georgia) Subject: **Support Legislation to Amend 38 USC, So As To Waive the One Year Presumptive Period And The One Year Limit On Retroactive Compensation Payments To Vietnam Veterans With Disabilities Related To Agent Orange**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently stated that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government, using all resources available, to determine the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who were exposed to it in Vietnam as expeditiously as possible, and to adequately compensate those individuals who have incurred disabilities as a result of such exposure; and

WHEREAS, Congress, in 1979, enacted Public Law 96—151, legislation supported by The American Legion, which mandated the Veterans Administration to conduct a scientific study of the effects of dioxin exposure on Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, After a period of more than three years in which such research did not commence, the responsibility for the Congressionally mandated study was assumed by the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, During such time, thousands of disability compensation claims have been filed with the Veterans Administration for diseases and disabilities claimed to be the result of exposure to Agent Orange; and

WHEREAS, The only condition currently recognized by the Veterans Administration as being caused by Agent Orange exposure is a skin condition diagnosed as chloracne; and

WHEREAS, Under current law, most chronic diseases must become manifest to a degree of ten per centum or more within one year of separation from active honorable service to be recognized as service-connected by the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The law also currently limits the award of compensation to no earlier than the effective date of any Act or administrative issue pursuant to which such award may be granted; and provides that in no event shall such an award be retroactive for more than one year from the date of application therefore or the date of administrative entitlement, whichever is earlier; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has for years encouraged all Vietnam veterans with disabilities felt to be caused by Agent Orange exposure to file claims for such disabilities with the Veterans Administration, with the assistance of American Legion service officers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation in the Congress of the United States to amend Sections 312 and 3010 of Title 38, United States Code, to provide that any disease or disability traced to Agent Orange exposure based upon scientific and medical evidence may be service-connected, regardless of the length of time following separation from military service such condition becomes manifest; and, that compensation shall be paid for any such disease or disability, retroactive to the date of application therefore, regardless of the length of time between the filing of such claim, and the determination that such disease or disability is the result of Agent Orange exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That entitlement to benefits under such legislation shall devolve upon the dependents and survivors of the veteran should death occur before the claim is favorably settled.

Res No: 451 (California) Subject: **Oppose The Efforts Of Any Person Or Groups Of Persons To Acquire Designations As "Veterans" Who Did Not Render Service In The Active Military, Naval Or Air Service Of The United States**

WHEREAS, The term "veteran" is presently defined by Section 101(2) of Title 38, United States Code, which reads: the term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval or air service, and who has been discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the term "veteran" has been reserved for those who have served in the uniformed services of the nation; and who have taken oath to bear arms in defense of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, The designation as a veteran is an appellation of honor that should properly go to those who have earned it and to no others; and

WHEREAS, To be designated a veteran bears with it entitlement to substantial rights and benefits provided by the nation in recognition of service rendered in the national interest; and

WHEREAS, There is a considerable number of groups of persons who did serve and support the war effort during various periods of conflict, but who did not serve on active duty in the military, naval or air service, and did not take the oath to bear arms; and

WHEREAS, There is currently an effort by some of these groups to persuade the government to grant to them the designation of "veterans" with all rights and benefits appertaining thereto; and

WHEREAS, The granting of the designation of "veterans" to such groups would diminish the value of the designation and reduce the significance of the honor that is attached to the designation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of persons who are veterans by reason of service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, It is of essential importance to The American Legion, and to the purpose for which it was organized to maintain the definition of the term "veteran" as it is presently defined in Section 101(2) of Title 38; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall oppose the efforts of any person or groups of persons to acquire designation as "veterans" on the basis of service rendered to the United States during a period of war or armed conflict, such service not having been rendered in the active military, naval or air service of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Organization shall make such representations as are necessary to the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal Government to make clear the opposition of this organization to the granting of such designation with the rights and benefits appertaining thereto.

Res No: 452 (California) Subject: **Support Legislation To Allow A Credit Against Tax For Expenses Incurred In The Care Of Elderly Veterans**

WHEREAS, The need for domiciliary and nursing home care is rising at a rate that will tax this nation's ability to cope with the needs of the aging veteran; and

WHEREAS, The need for institutionalized extended care shows projected peaks in the year 2010 at approximately 125,000 average daily census as compared to a current level of 44,000; and

WHEREAS, It is the concern of The American Legion to prevent "mainstreaming" our nation's veterans into leased facilities provided as an expedient to accommodate limited surges in the workload and the Administration's intent is to avoid new construction to meet this increased workload; and

WHEREAS, It is the position of The American Legion that veterans should be treated in the home whenever possible and has actively promoted legislation to develop less expensive alternatives to long-term institutionalized care for the nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, If families had the option to care for the aging veterans at home and obtain a deduction from their total annual tax bill, most families would choose this option, and reduce VA expenditures relating to inpatient resources and construction initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The current waiting periods for most VA domiciliary and nursing home care beds are excessive, thereby disallowing veterans timely admittance; and

WHEREAS, The provision of health care in the veteran's home is not only economically beneficial to the Federal Government, but will open up extended care beds for critically ill veterans; and

WHEREAS, Such a program would benefit all Americans through expansion of this idea to the private sector; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports any legislative initiatives that will provide older, chronically ill veterans of our armed services a credit against taxes for the expenses their families incur in providing home based care.

Res No: 454 (California) Subject: **Oppose Any Executive Order Or Other Procedure That Would Provide Treatment To Non-Veterans In Veterans Administration Medical Care Facilities**

WHEREAS, Section 601 of Title 38, United States Code, defines the eligibility criteria for entitlement to medical care and treatment in the VA medical care system; and

WHEREAS, The definitions specify that such medical services will be provided for those persons who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, 611(b) of Title 38 provides that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs may furnish medical care as a humanitarian service in emergency cases, but that charges for such care shall be assessed at rates prescribed by the Administrator; and

WHEREAS, Such emergency medical services are to be provided only on a temporary basis until provision is made for a safe transfer to a private or community facility, without jeopardizing the individual's life; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is mandated by law to serve as the principal contingency back-up to the Armed Forces medical programs in case of a national emergency or an outbreak of hostilities; and

WHEREAS, There have been previous attempts by the Government to provide medical care, through the Veterans Administration, to groups of non-veterans who did not meet the criteria set forth in Section 611(b) of the title, or the latest assigned mission of the agency; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion strictly believes that the VA medical care system should be operated exclusively for the provision of quality medical care to those veterans who have honorably served in the Armed Forces of the United States, except where otherwise currently mandated by law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion oppose any Executive Order or other procedure that would permit the use of any Veterans Administration medical care facility by anyone other than veterans or those individuals specifically mandated by current law.

Res No: 504 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **The American Legion Policy On Exposure To Ionizing Radiation**

WHEREAS, During the period of 1945-1962, according to the Department of Energy, there were approximately 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the U.S. and the Pacific, which involved approximately 347,000 persons, most being active duty service personnel; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of veterans who were present at these tests have subsequently developed leukemia, thyroid conditions, and other similar diseases which, based on scientific evidence, are linked to their exposure to radiation in service; and

WHEREAS, Until recently it was virtually impossible to properly develop radiation related claims as a result of the reluctance of some agencies to relinquish information to individual claimants and accredited representatives, and the fact that VA regional office personnel had not been adequately instructed in the preparation of these cases; and

WHEREAS, Some improvements have been made through the efforts of the Defense Nuclear Agency and its subordinate Nuclear Test Personnel Review Programs in each military service ~~in~~ the reconstruction of dose levels for individual veterans; and

WHEREAS, In many cases, however, the dose reconstruction is based on methodology and assumptions because film badges and other historical data are scarce to nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, A previously existing legal recourse, which allowed Atomic Veterans to sue for damages resulting from inadequate precautionary measures and other alleged negligence on the part of federal contractors while conducting nuclear weapons tests, was nullified by an amendment to the FY 1985 Defense Authorization Act, PL 98-525; and

WHEREAS, There exists a need for substantive research and follow-up studies on the issue of exposure to ionizing radiation and its effects on veterans, as there is a paucity of meaningful research that has been accomplished to date, and most studies that have been completed include disclaimers that statistically significant findings are not proven to be related to radiation exposure; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is actively involved in locating veterans who participated in any atomic tests while on active duty, assisting such veterans in the filing and development of appropriate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Veterans Administration, and advising them of possible eligibility for treatment at Veterans Administration medical care facilities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 100-322 did provide certain presumptions related to disabilities resulting from exposure to ionizing radiation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to restore the legal course of action against allegedly negligent federal contractors that was available to Atomic Veterans prior to the enactment of PL 98-525; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Executive Branch and the Congress of the United States to place a high priority on research relating to the long-term health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation on those veterans who were exposed while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the effects of radiation exposure and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in such projects; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion disseminate the most current responsible information relating to exposure to ionizing radiation to Legionnaires, Atomic Veterans and their families, and the public through all resources available to transmit such information.

Res No: 506 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **The American Legion Policy On Presumptive Disabilities Of Former POWS**

WHEREAS, In its concern for the welfare of all those who have served in the nation's Armed Forces, one of the major concerns of The American Legion has been the welfare of those who have been prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported various legislative measures intended to alleviate the disabilities that afflict former POWs as a result of experience during internment; and

WHEREAS, Most recently The American Legion supported enactment of Public Law 97-37, the Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981, approved August 14, 1981, and the presumptions included in Public Law 100-322; and

WHEREAS, There are now surviving approximately 85,000 former POWs of the four American Wars of the Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS, Continued observation of their condition during the years subsequent to their internment indicates additional health problems probably associated with the internment; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a fundamental obligation to do all possible to alleviate any and all health problems of former POWs, and see to their physical, social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, There is an apparent need to further modify the current provisions of Title 38, United States Code that provide for former POWs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend Section 312 of Title 38, United States Code, in such a way as to provide presumptive service connection for the following conditions in the absence of demonstrable intercurrent disease or injury;

1. Hepatitis or other infectious diseases of the liver;
2. Organic residuals of hypothermia, e.g., trench foot, immersion foot or hand, Raynaud's Disease;
3. Arthritis;
4. Chronic pulmonary disease (where there is a history of forced labor in mines during internment);

and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support amendment of Section 612(b)(1)(G) of Title 38, USC, to strike out the words "ninety days" and insert in lieu thereof the words "thirty days,"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall support any and all efforts on the part of the United States Government to alleviate and ameliorate social, economic and physical disabilities experienced by former POWs where such disabilities can reasonably be attributed to the effects of internment by the enemies of the United States.

Res No: 246 (Arizona) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC, To Restore The Payment Of Burial Allowance For All Veterans; And To Increase The Burial Allowance For Veterans To $400**

WHEREAS, The National Cemetery System of the Veterans Administration is proceeding with development and expansion of the National Cemetery System; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the actions of the Veterans Administration to further develop and expand the National Cemetery System; and

WHEREAS, Legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the President in 1981 took away the burial benefit, previously provided for the burial for all honorably discharged war veterans and restricted that benefit to certain categories of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Based on its support of the principles of equal benefits for equal service, The American Legion has strongly supported the equity of the provision of the burial benefit to all honorably discharged war veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall support necessary funding providing for the construction of columbaria wherever feasible within national cemeteries; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to restore the burial allowance as a benefit to be provided for the burial of all honorably discharged war veterans and provided further that this burial allowance shall not be in an amount less than $400.00.

Res No: 79 (Ohio) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend Title 38, USC So As To Provide Medication On A Prima Facie Basis To Any Veteran With A Pending Claim For Pension Plus Aid And Attendance, Who Is In A Nursing Home Under VA Contract Even After Such Contract Expires**

WHEREAS, A veteran placed in a nursing home on a contract basis by a Veterans Administration Medical Center is entitled to free drugs and medicines for the duration of the contract; and

WHEREAS, A veteran is entitled to free drugs and medicines from the Veterans Administration when he is entitled to a housebound or aid and attendance rating in addition to this pension; and

WHEREAS, Many of the veterans placed in a nursing home by the Veterans Administrationhave a claim pending for pension plus an aid and attendance rating which may not have been adjudicated at the time the contract period terminates, thus losing their right to free drugs and medicines until claims have been adjudicated; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, authorizing the VA to provide drugs and medicines on a prima facie basis to all veterans in a nursing home under a VA contract with pending claims for nonservice-connected pension including aid and attendance benefits until such time as the claim has been finally adjudicated regardless of the fact that the contract period may have expired.

Res No: 232 (Indiana) Subject: **Support Legislation To Provide Dental Care To Veterans Rated At 50% Or More For Service-Connected Disabilities: And, Full Dental Care For Any Veteran Who Has Service-Connected Dental Condition Due To Trauma**

WHEREAS, Current law and regulations limit dental care to a very small number of veterans, primarily those who are rated at the 100% service-connected level for diabetes, for stomach ulcers, or for dental trauma (limited to the particular teeth involved in the trauma); and

WHEREAS, A dental trauma all too often affects all of the teeth, both upper and lower, and thus requires treatment for these teeth and gums; current law and regulation not permitting treatment for the other dental areas affected; and

WHEREAS, It is possible for a veteran with only one tooth involved in a service-connected rating to eventually require that all teeth be removed or replaced with dentures, at VA expense, due to improper dental care; this situation could be eliminated by providing preventive dental care thus resulting in overall savings to the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the principle of the finest medical care available for disabled veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to provide full dental care to veterans who are rated at 50% or more for service-connected disabilities; and, full dental care for any veteran that has a service-connected dental condition due to trauma.

Res No: 311 (Virginia) Subject: **Use Of Resource Allocation Methodology In The VA Medical Care Program**

WHEREAS, The Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM), which includes Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs), and Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs), are now being used by VA Department of Medicine and Surgery as cost planning and cost containment methods; and

WHEREAS, Utilization of RAM throughout the VA's health care system has caused serious problems affecting quality of care being given veteran-patients; and

WHEREAS, The most serious problems caused by use of the RAM system have been manifested in the long-term type facilities, e.g., psychiatric, nursing home and domiciliary, the intermediate and extended care wards of acute care facilities, and inpatient PTSD treatment units; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is deeply concerned about poor treatment plans, poor discharge planning and "dumping" of veteran-patients into their communities before they are physically, psychologically and emotionally ready for discharge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion convey to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and to the Chief Medical Director of the VA, its serious concerns about the adverse effects utilization of the RAM, budgeting and resource allocation methods are having on delivery of care to veteran-patients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Veterans Affairs Committees of Congress be asked to study the problems being caused by use of RAM budgeting and resource allocation methods and to work with VA to modify these methodologies to the extent necessary to assure the providing of the complete continuum of high quality medical care to veterans that is mandated by current statutes.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 455 (CA)

Res No: 314 (Virginia) Subject: **Support Legislation To Provide That Prescriptions Written By Non-VA Physicians Shall Be Honored By The VA For Those Veterans Suffering Service-Connected Disabilities**

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration is authorized to provide medical services which are determined to be medically necessary to various categories of veterans; and

WHEREAS, Drugs and medicines may be furnished to eligible veterans for treatment of a service-connected condition, for which entitlement to care has been determined, on either a staff or fee-basis treatment program; and

WHEREAS, Drugs and medicines may not be provided to veterans who are not under VA authorized treatment except to veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound allowance; and

WHEREAS, The General Counsel of the Veterans Administration has determined there is no current statutory authority for filling prescriptions written by physicians who are not treating service-connected veterans on an authorized fee-basis; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities who are considered housebound or entitled to aid and attendance allowance are entitled to receive medications from the Veterans Administration, based on prescriptions written by non-VA physicians; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion likewise believes it is inequitable to deny those prescriptions written by non-VA physicians for veterans with service-connected disabilities in some cases, and allow certain nonservice-connected veterans such a privilege in others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide that prescriptions for service-connected disabilities, written by non-VA physicians who are treating veterans for such disabilities at the veteran's expense, and by the veteran's wishes, shall be honored by the VA.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 103 (OK); 158 (TX); and, 450 (CA).

Res No: 315 (Virginia) Subject: **Urge Congress To Authorize Adequate Funding In The Current Fiscal Year And In Future Years For Veterans Administration Medical Research Programs**

WHEREAS, Appropriations for Veterans Administration medical research provides support for health service projects at VA hospitals and clinics for improving the effectiveness and economy of delivery of health services and improving the accessibility of service to veterans; and

WHEREAS, Objectives of the medical research programs are directed toward their important impact upon the Veterans Administration hospital patient care and teaching program; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration medical research programs contribute materially to the health care of veterans and the nation as a whole by generating new knowledge; and

WHEREAS, The excellence of the Veterans Administration medical research program is attested to by the recognition of VA researchers on a national and international scale; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall urge the Congress to authorize adequate funding in the current fiscal year and in future years of the Veterans Administration medical research programs.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 109 (IL)

Res No: 320 (Massachusetts) Subject: **Urges The Veterans Administration And The Congress To Approve Increased Salary Levels For Nurses In VA Medical Centers, So As To Be Competitive With The Private Sector**

WHEREAS, The aging veteran population is placing a demand for treatment upon the VA medical care delivery system in what is now record numbers; and

WHEREAS, A shortage in nursing personnel is fast approaching crisis proportion with literally thousands of VA hospital beds around the nation being taken out of service as a direct result of this shortage; and

WHEREAS, All efforts at recruitment of nurses to work in VA medical facilities, no matter how innovative the method, have failed to adequately fill existing staff shortages or compete with the private sector salaries and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, This shortage under the Resource Allocation Method of cost accounting and operating budget projections determinations for future fiscal years as used by the VA, has produced a critical restriction in the availability of beds and services that will remain largely unchanged for each of the next several years in the VA medical care system; and

WHEREAS, This staffing shortage and retention problem is projected to continue and in fact increase unless there is some serious and dramatic changes in Federal nursing salary structure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Administrator of the Veterans Administration to present to Congress and urge Congress to approve, for the next fiscal year, a budget that reflects salary levels for the nursing service that is comparable to and with those of the private sector.

Res No: 445 (Georgia) Subject: **The American Legion Policy On "Mainstreaming" Medical Services To The Veteran**

WHEREAS, Within the health care community, nationwide, there remains an element that advocates the direction of veterans health care into the private sector, using as its designation for this change in the present system, the term "mainstreaming"; and

WHEREAS, The problems of under-utilization of physicians and hospitals in the private sector result primarily from maldistribution of physicians and construction of too many beds by for-profit hospitals; and

WHEREAS, It is not the function of the program of medical care for veterans to rescue the private sector medical community from the problems created by its enthusiasm for profit-taking; and

WHEREAS, The mechanisms established by Congress governing approval of and funding for all aspects of veterans medical care, including staffing in medical centers and construction and renovation of replacement of medical facilities are effective and sufficient to protect the interests of the taxpayers who fund such programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, After more than 65 years of experience in seeking the welfare of sick and disabled veterans, The American Legion is satisfied that the present system of veterans medical care that is operated by the Veterans Administration is the best system to achieve its goal and provide cost-efficient medical care to veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion reiterates its faith and trust in the veterans medical care program operated by the Veterans Administration, as the best and most cost-efficient system available to enable the Federal Government to meet its fundamental obligation to look to the welfare of the service disabled and of sick and disabled veterans who have need of and apply for care within that system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion rejects the concept of care delivery known as "mainstreaming" as an acceptable way for the nation to meet its responsibilities for the health care of veterans.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 457 (CA)

Res No: 447 (Georgia) Subject: **American Legion Insistence On Strict Interpretation Of Public Law 99-272**

WHEREAS, Congress has passed, and the President has signed the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, now designated Public Law 99-272; and

WHEREAS, PL 99-272 includes a means test and third party reimbursement as methods of reducing the cost of nonservice-connected medical care for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believed and still believes the means test and third party reimbursement will not in the long run reduce costs, but will rather make it more difficult for eligible and needy veterans to receive VA medical care; and

WHEREAS, The language of PL 99-272 includes a provision that certain categories of veterans "shall" receive VA medical care when such veterans need and apply for care; and

WHEREAS, This provision, in PL 99-272, effects an essential change in the earlier statute, which provided that the categories of veterans above referred to "may" receive care, depending on available VA resources; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion sees this statutory change as a positive commitment by the Congress to provide medical care to the identified categories of veterans as an absolute right; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion now expects the Veterans Administration to fulfill the provisions of PL 99-272 to the exact letter of the law, as clearly intended by Congress; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The American Legion expects Congress to provide whatever resources are needed to enable VA to fulfill this commitment; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That a failure to fulfill the commitment clearly set forth in the language of PL 99-272, would be a clearly identified breach of faith by the Government, with those veterans who have honorably defended the national interests in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 459 (CA)

Res No: 453 (California) Subject: **Oppose Further Curtailment Of Veterans Administration Health Care Benefits For Veterans**

WHEREAS, One of the most important benefits provided by a grateful nation to its veterans is the Veterans Administration health-care program; and

WHEREAS, The VA health-care program is being restricted in the ability to provide care to the maximum number of veterans who are eligible and apply for such care, by reason of funding limitations imposed by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion does not believe it is fair, nor in accord with the wishes of the American people that the needs of sick and disabled veterans be sacrificed on the alter of fiscal austerity; and

WHEREAS, The size of the present veteran population, occasioned by the four American wars of the Twentieth Century, is now approximately 28 million; and

WHEREAS, Not more than approximately 10% of these 28 million veterans are regular users of the VA system, these being the service disabled and the oldest, the sickest of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, The advancing age of the World War II veteran population is placing special needs and demands on the VA system, for more specialized and long-term types of care; and

WHEREAS, These needs and demands will continue to increase through the balance of this Century, and into the Twenty-first Century; and

WHEREAS, The system is in continuing need of large scale funding for the renovation and replacement of outdated facilities by reason of past neglect of these needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion petition the President and Congress of the United States—1. Not to limit the eligibility of the nation's veterans to VA health care benefits, and

2. To provide adequate funding to the Veterans Administration to enable it to continue to offer "state of the art" medical care to those veterans who are eligible for, and need to apply for such care; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall oppose, with the maximum of its energy and resources, any and all efforts, from whatever source, to restrict, curtail or to eliminate the entitlement of honorably discharged veterans to health-care from the Veterans Administration, wherever and whenever such care is needed and applied for by such veterans.

Res No: 456 (California) Subject: **Support Legislation To Provide Outpatient VA Dental Services And Treatment To Veterans Of World War I**

WHEREAS, The average age of the veterans of World War I is approximately 89 years; and

WHEREAS, The surviving veterans of World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances are subsisting at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States and the Federal Government have a direct obligation to ensure that all of the veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, Section 612 of Title 38, United States Code, provides eligibility for outpatient dental services and treatment to be provided by the Veterans Administration in certain instances; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which was founded by the veterans of World War I, has a special obligation to determine their needs and to adequately address them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 612 of Title 38, United States Code, to provide eligibility for outpatient dental services and treatment to every veteran of World War I.

Res No: 498 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Support Legislation To Restore The Grants-In-Aid Program And Nursing Home Care To The Veterans Memorial Medical Center In The Philippines**

WHEREAS, Sections 631 and 632 of Title 38, United States Code, were amended by Public Law 97-72, so as to eliminate the provision of hospital and nursing home care to the Philippine Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts requiring treatment for service-connected disabilities or nonservice-connected disabilities; and

WHEREAS, These veterans are in need of continuing medical and hospital care by reason of their disabilities and advancing age; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Memorial Medical Center is providing adequate medical care to these veterans and contributing to the advancement of medical education in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Memorial Center has furnished satisfactory hospital care to these veterans, and also has established an affiliation with outstanding universities and medical colleges for the training of medical interns and students as well as interns, students and externs of allied health professions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was supportive of the grants-in-aid program and feels that the Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts are deserving of the assistance of the United States in receiving medical care during their waning years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 632 of Title 38, United States Code, so as to restore the authority for the United States to pay for hospital care, medical services, nursing home care, available medicines, medical supplies and equipment for Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts who have incurred service-connected or nonservice-connected disabilities.

Res No: 499 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Urges That Radiation Exposure Cases Be Entitled To Medical Treatment On A Presumptive Basis**

WHEREAS, Public Law 97-72 provides that veterans exposed to radiation during active duty may be furnished hospital or nursing home care for any disability, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such disability may be associated with such exposure; and

WHEREAS, The provision of such health care services has been limited primarily to veterans suffering from cancer or thyroid nodules; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion firmly believes that the criteria for VA medical treatment provided radiation exposed veterans should be liberalized to include treatment for all diseases except congenital or developmental abnormalities and acute conditions that are obviously not caused by such exposure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Veterans Administration to provide medical care authorized under PL 97-72, to any honorably discharged veteran who was exposed to ionizing radiation during active military service, and who has incurred a disability or disabilities other than those diagnosed as a congenital or developmental abnormality, or an acute condition that is obviously not related to radiation exposure.

Res No: 500 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Urges Congress To Adequately Fund The VA Health Care System Construction Program**

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration construction appropriation provides for renovation and replacement, as needed, of the physical plant of the VA health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration health care system is comprised of 172 hospitals, 226 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing home care units, and 16 domiciliaries; and

WHEREAS, Within this VA health care system many of the aging facilities need replacement, renovation, modernization, reconfiguration and improvements relating to fire, safety and privacy standards, to make them suitable for the practice of modern medicine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urges Congress, in its annual appropriations to provide funds to enable the Veterans Administration to carry out a planned program of maintaining an up-to-date system of health care facilities, and one suited to its mission of providing medical services for the nation's veterans.

Res No: 503 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Oppose Any Effort to Provide That Per Diem Subsidies Paid By The VA For The Care Of Veterans In State Homes Shall Not Be Used To Offset Payments Made Under The Medicaid Program**

WHEREAS, For one hundred years the Federal Government has assisted the several states operating veteran homes through grant-in-aid payments for veterans cared for in those homes; and

WHEREAS, State veteran homes were established in recognition of the sacrifice made by veterans to protect and defend the liberty of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, State veteran homes are established as a state initiative, with each state determining matter of state policy regarding admission criteria, charge criteria, the means and amount of state support, and the role of Medicaid in state home operations; and

WHEREAS, The 99th Congress saw introduction of legislation which would not allow Medicaid to consider grant-in-aid payments made by the Federal Government as third party pay for Medicaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, The passage of this Bill would put the Federal Government in the position of paying for a day of care twice and would, for those majority of state homes not in the Medicaid program, create severe incentive for their states to require such participation, since grant-in-aid payments could be used to reduce state appropriations to the home's operation; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who have served this country in its fight for freedom do not deserve to be pauperized as required by the Medicaid program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion does oppose the concept that per diem subsidies paid by the Veterans Administration for the care of veterans in state homes shall not be used to offset payments that are made under the Medicaid program for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans.

Res No: 5 (South Dakota) Subject: **Amend Title 38, United States Code, So As To Provide Housebound Benefits For Certain Recipients Of Parents' DIC**

WHEREAS, The current program of Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation does not include an intermediate rate for individuals who are substantially confined to their place of residence or housebound; and

WHEREAS, Such individuals are severely disabled and require assistance in order to leave their place of residence; and

WHEREAS, The severity of their disability does not meet the criteria for an award of additional compensation benefits based on nursing home status, or being helpless or blind, or in need of aid and attendance, under Section 415(g) of Title 38, United States Code; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 415 of Title 38, United States Code, so as to provide for an intermediate rate based on housebound status.

Res No: 80 (Ohio) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend Title 38, USC, So As To Provide Additional Monthly Amounts Of Death Compensation To Children In Need Of Aid And Attendance**

WHEREAS, The surviving widow, child, or children of any veteran who died before January 1, 1957, as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by active military, naval or air service, in line of duty in active service, may be entitled to death compensation; and

WHEREAS, There is a provision for an additional payment of $79.00 per month to a widow receiving death compensation if such widow is a patient in a nursing home, or helpless, or blind or so nearly helpless or blind as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person; and

WHEREAS, There is no provision in the law to grant an additional payment of $79.00 per month to the surviving child or children drawing death compensation who are in a nursing home, or helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend 38 USC so as to provide an additional payment of $79.00 per month to each child receiving death compensation if in an nursing home, or helpless, or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

Res No: 102 (Oklahoma) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC 3104, So As To Remove The Restriction Against The Receipt Of Armed Forces Pay, Due To Length Of Service, Concurrently With VA Compensation**

WHEREAS, 38 USC 3104, prohibits the payment of retirement pay from the Armed Forces concurrently with VA compensation or pension; and

WHEREAS, Civil Service employees, as well as Members of Congress, who retire on longevity may receive their retirement annuity with VA compensation; and

WHEREAS, Armed Forces retirement pay and Civil Service annuity (longevity) is based on duties performed and length of service; and

WHEREAS, Career Civil Service employees and career members of the Armed Forces are both employed by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that it is inequitable to authorize one group of Federal employees to receive both VA compensation and retirement pay, and prohibit another group from receiving both; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 3104, so as to remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retired pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA compensation.

Res No: 206 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC 312(a) So As To Provide A Seven Year Presumptive Period For Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) begins insidiously involving degeneration of the nerve cells in either the brain stem, or spinal cord, and is characterized in later stages by atrophy and almost always fibrillation of the muscular system; and

WHEREAS, ALS in its primary stage is difficult if not impossible to diagnose due to the sporadic or gradual nature of the onset of the disease process and the variety of signs and symptoms; and

WHEREAS, The veteran may not seek medical treatment for such symptoms, or if so, the disease may not be recognized initially because such symptoms are similar to those produced by a number of other conditions; and

WHEREAS, Once a diagnosis of ALS has been established the prognosis is almost always dismal leading inexorably to death within four to five years after the onset of symptoms; and

WHEREAS, A presumptive period of one year from the date of separation from active military service is currently provided under 38 USC, Section 301 for chronic diseases including ALS; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes because of the insidious nature of ALS and the difficulty of early diagnosis similar to that of multiple sclerosis, there is good reason medically to grant service connection for this disease if developing a 10% degree of disability or more within seven years of separation from military service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, Section 312(a) to extend the presumptive period from one to seven years from the date of separation from active military service for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Res No: 233 (Indiana) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend Section 314, USC, So As To Increase The Monthly Rates Of Disability Compensation**

WHEREAS, Disability compensation is a monthly payment made by the Veterans Administration to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, These disability compensation payments are based on a schedule of ratings of reduction in earning capacity from specific injuries or combination of injuries adopted by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, In response to increased cost of living and other factors, the weekly take home pay of the blue collar worker in non-agriculture employment is constantly increased; and

WHEREAS, To maintain the purchasing power of these disabled veterans, or those entitled to received these monthly benefits, the rates payable must respond to cost-of-living increases; and

WHEREAS, It is the option of The American Legion that there is no way to adequately compensate a veteran for loss of ability to be a working, productive member of our society, and that the monthly rates of disability compensation do not adequately compensate these disabled veterans for their loss due to reduced earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes a further readjustment in the amount of disability compensation rates is needed so that these veterans can fulfill their fundamental purpose, that is, to assure that they have sufficient economic maintenance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 314 of Title 38, United States Code, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation.

Res No: 279 (Iowa) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend Section 411, 38, USC, So As To Increase The Monthly Rates Of Dependency And Indemnity Compensation**

WHEREAS, The Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivors Benefit Act, effective January 1, 1957, established the dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) program for those widows and children of servicemen and veterans who die of service-connected causes; and

WHEREAS, This Act, as amended, established a grade-related system of monthly DIC payments to eligible survivors; and

WHEREAS, As now provided under authorizing legislation, the Congress, from time to time, must enact legislation to provide cost-of-living increases for those widows and children receiving, or who may become eligible to receive DIC payments; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that to maintain the purchasing power of these widows and children, or those entitled to receive these monthly benefits, the rates payable must be increased; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 411 of Title 38, United States Code, to increase monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation.

Res No: 280 (Iowa) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Increase The Present Burial Plot Allowance For Veterans From $150 to $250**

WHEREAS, National cemeteries are not always located near centers of population, thus precluding many veterans from utilizing them; and

WHEREAS, The majority of veterans desire to be buried in either family burial plots or in cemeteries located nearest their homes; and

WHEREAS, The cost of burial plots has increased considerably during recent years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives that many families of veterans have limited means to provide for the purchase of an appropriate burial site; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to increase the present burial plot allowance for veterans from $150 to $250.

Res No: 284 (Iowa) Subject: **Support Legislation To Provide For The Payment Of A Clothing Allowance To Veterans With A Compensable Skin Condition And For Certain Other Compensable Conditions When It Is Determined There Is Clothing Spoilage**

WHEREAS, Under Title 38, USC, the Veterans Administration shall pay a clothing allowance each year to any veteran who because of disability which is compensable wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) which fend to war out the clothing of such a veteran; and

WHEREAS, There are certain veterans who receive compensation for severe skin conditions that require the use of medication; and

WHEREAS, Those disabilities that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds, or infected areas, or the use of apparatus holding bandages, likewise wear and tear on clothing due to abrasion or frequent need of laundering; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is aware that a substantial number of these veterans have clothing spoilage due to the types of disabilities involved and the use of salves, medication, and appliances for those disabilities mentioned herewith; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to amend Section 362 of Title 38, USC, to provide for the payment of an annual clothing allowance to any veteran with a compensable skin condition requiring topical medication and also to those veterans who have service-connected disabilities, that result in urinary or fecal incontinence and require the use of appliances for colostomies, ileostomies, drainage from wounds or infected areas, or the use of an apparatus holding bandages.

Res No: 316 (Virginia) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation T[illegible]mend Title 138, USC, Chapter 15 To Further Improve The Disability And Death Pe[illegible]ion Programs For Veterans And Their Dependents**

WHEREAS, Public Law 95-588, the Veterans and Survivors Pension Improvement Act of 1978, effective January 1, 1979, did provide major changes in the pension program for veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and for their surviving spouses and children; and

WHEREAS, These pension improvement provisions did establish a guaranteed annual income level for veterans as well as for spouses and children; and

WHEREAS, After extensive study, The American Legion concludes that there are inequities in the improved program that require amendments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to accomplish the following amendments to Chapter 15, Title 38, United States Code:

1. (a) Amend section 541(b) to provide as follows: "If no child of the veteran is in custody of the surviving spouse, pension shall be paid to the surviving spouse at the annual rate of $5,593 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (b) Amend Section 514(c) to provide as follows: "If there is a child of the veteran in the custody of the surviving spouse, pension shall be paid to the surviving spouse at the annual rate of $7,326 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (c) Amend Section 541(d)(1) to provide as follows: "If a surviving spouse who is entitled to pension under Subsection (b) of this section is in need of regular aid and attendance, the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse shall be $8,000 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (d) Amend Section 541(d)(2) to provide as follows: "If a surviving spouse who is entitled to pension under Subsection (c) of this section is in need of regular aid and attendance, the annual rate of pension payable to the surviving spouse shall be $10,999 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income." (e) Amend Section 541(e) to provide as follows: "If the surviving spouse is permanently housebound, but does not qualify for pension at the aid and attendance rate provided by Subsection (d) of this section, the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse under Subsection (b) of this section shall be $6,839 and the annual rate of pension payable to such surviving spouse under Subsection (c) of this section shall be $8,569 reduced by the amount of the surviving spouse's annual income."

2. Amend Section 542 to provide as follows: (a) "Whenever there is no surviving spouse entitled to pension under Section 541, pension shall be paid monthly to each child at the annual rate of $5,282 reduced by the child's annual income."

3. Amend Section 543 by deleting under Subsection (b) the following: "The income of any person with whom such child is residing who is legally responsible for such child's support, and the corpus of the estate of such person."

4. Amend Section 521 (f)(1) through (5) to provide as follows: "If two veterans are married to one another and each meet the disability and service requirements prescribed in Subsections (a) and (j) respectively, of this section, the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be at the annual rate of $5,886 reduced by the amount of each such

veteran's annual income. If either such veteran is in need of regular aid and attendance the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be at the rate of $5,886 and $9,416 respectively, reduced by the amount of such veteran's annual income. If either such veteran would be entitled to pension at the rate provided by Subsection (e) of this section, the rate of pension payable to each such veteran shall be $5,886 and $7,194 respectively, and if both such veterans would be entitled to the rate provided by Subsection (e) of this section, each shall be paid at the annual rate of $7,194 reduced by the amount of each such veteran's annual income. If one such veteran is in need of regular aid and attendance and the other would be entitled to the rate provided for under Subsection (e) of this section, the annual rate provided by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be $9,019 and $7,194 respectively."

5. Amend Section 503 to exclude in the determination of annual income, payments under policies of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, United States Government Life or National Service Life Insurance, and payments of Servicemen's Indemnity.

6. Amend Section 3012(b)(4) to read as follows: "(4) By reason of change in income or corpus of estate shall be the last day of the calendar year in which the change occurred;".

Consolidated with this resolution is: No. 39 (NE)

Res No: 440 (Georgia) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC, Section 3203, So As To Increase The Amount Of Pension Payable To Certain Veterans Who Are Furnished Domiciliary, Hospital, Or Nursing Care**

WHEREAS, 38 USC 3203 provides where any veteran having neither spouse nor child is being furnished (A) domiciliary care by the Veterans Administration, no pension in excess of $60.00 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the second full calendar month following the month of admission; or (B) hospital or nursing home care by the Veterans Administration, no pension in excess of $60.00 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the third full calendar month following the month of admission; and

WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Public Law 95-588 on November 5, 1987, which increased the rates payable under Section 3203 of this title from $50.00 per month to $60.00 per month, the maximum pension payments to single veterans have been continuously increased due to increases in the cost-of-living index; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that veterans who are hospitalized, domiciled, or in a nursing home, have also experienced the same or similar increases in their living expenses which are not covered in hospital benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, Section 3203, so as to increase the amount of pension payable to certain veterans who are being furnished domiciliary, hospital, or nursing home care under this section from $60.00 to $75.00 per month.

Consolidated with this resolution is No. 108 (IL)

Res No: 446 (Georgia) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC, To Restore The Payment Of Burial Allowance For All Veterans; And To Increase The Burial Allowance For Veterans To $400**

WHEREAS, The authorization for payment of burial allowance upon the death of a nonservice-connected veteran originated with the enactment of the "World War Veterans Act of 1924", Public Law 242-68th Congress; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of such allowance is to enable the survivors or next of kin of the deceased veteran to arrange a funeral and burial consistent with the dignity and esteem in which war veterans are held; and

WHEREAS, Burial allowance has been payable regardless of the income or social standing of the veteran at the time of death, consistent with The American Legion's philosophy of equal benefits for equal service; and

WHEREAS, Congress has adopted and the President has signed legislation to eliminate this benefit for most beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Funeral expenses have increased considerably since the payment of burial allowance was increased from $150 to $300 as authorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion rejects the proposition that the burial allowance provided to veterans through the Veterans Administration duplicates the Social Security burial allowance, because the Social Security burial allowance is an earned benefit to which the beneficiary has contributed through Social Security taxes, whereas the veterans burial allowance is a benefit provided in recognition of honorable service performed in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Many families of veterans are in poor financial circumstances, having little or no means to provide a decent and respectable funeral for the veterans to which they are justly entitled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 138, United States Code, to restore the payment of burial allowance for all veterans who have served honorably in time of war or national emergency; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any effort to associate with or substitute the veterans burial allowance with the Social Security burial allowance; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to increase the burial allowance for veterans to $400.

Consolidated with this resolution are: Nos. 243 (MN); and 458 (CA)

Res No: 502 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Support Legislation To Amend 38 USC 110 To Provide That A Disability Rated At Or Above A Certain Evaluation For 10 Or More Years Shall Be Protected, Except When It is Shown That Such Rating Was Based Upon Fraud**

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes and strongly supports that a service-connected disability which has been continuously rated at or above an evaluation for compensation purposes should be protected after ten years and shall not thereafter be rated at less than such evaluation, except upon a showing that such rating was based on fraud; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the history of this great nation, the people and the Congress have provided special benefit programs for those men and women who honorably served in time of war; and

WHEREAS, The service-connected condition contributed substantially or materially and for many veterans is the principal cause of death; and

WHEREAS, No consideration in these determinations is given to the fact that the severe chronic disabilities materially shorten the life expectancy of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is convinced that the length of time for the preservation of disability rating evaluation should be the same as that which currently applies to the protection of service connection (referring to Section 110 of Title 38, United States Code, and Section 359 of Title 38, United States Code); and

WHEREAS, Section 110 of Title 38, United States Code, now provides for the protection of all disability compensation evaluations that have been continuously in effect for twenty or more years; and

WHEREAS, Permanency should be conceded for disability compensation ratings which have been in effect for ten years without change in evaluation with no further examination scheduled; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend 38 USC 110, to provide that any disability which has been continuously rated at or above any evaluation for ten or more years for compensation purposes under laws administered by the Veterans Administration shall not thereafter be rated at less than such evaluation, except upon a showing that such rating was based on fraud.

Res No: 505 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend Title 38, USC, So As To Provide Special Pension Program For Veterans Of World War I**

WHEREAS, The median age of the veterans of World War I approximates 90 years; and

WHEREAS, The number of living World War I veterans is decreasing steadily; and

WHEREAS, The surviving veterans of World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances are subsisting at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Through the years since November 11, 1918, these veterans have worked unremittingly to develop the comprehensive program of veterans benefits that is now provided for all American war veterans; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I did not have the advantage of any of the readjustment programs provided for veterans of later wars; and

WHEREAS, The Government of the United States and the American people have a direct obligation to ensure that all of the veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, The veterans of World War I are deserving of a special measure of attention because they have not received all benefits provided for veterans of other wars, and many of them live in a condition of economic deprivation; and

WHEREAS, The most efficacious and propitious way for the nation to fulfill its obligation to World War I veterans is to ensure them an adequate monthly income; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which was founded by veterans of World War I, has a special obligation to look to their needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to amend Chapter 15 of Title 38, United States Code, by adding a new section entitled "Veterans of World War I" and, which will provide as follows:

(A) The Administrator of Veterans Affairs shall pay to each veteran of World War I, who meets the service requirements of this section, pension at the rate prescribed by this section.

(B) If the veteran is unmarried (or married but not living with and not reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse), and has no child, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed $12,000, pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of $150.

(C) If the veteran is married and living with or reasonably contributing to the support of such veteran's spouse, or has a child or children, and such veteran's annual income does not exceed $15,000, pension shall be paid the veteran at the monthly rate of $150.

(D) The pension provided for this section shall be paid without regard to (1) any income of any kind payable to the spouse, and (2) the corpus of estate of the veteran or the spouse.

(E) In determining annual income for the purpose of this section, all payments of any kind or from any source shall be included, except those presently excluded under the existing provisions of Section 503 of this title.

(F) Any veteran who is eligible for pension under Section 521 or any other section of this title shall, if he/she elects, be paid such pension. If pension is paid pursuant to such an election, the election shall be irrevocable.

(G) For the purpose of this section, the term World War I means the period beginning on April 6, 1917 and ending on November 11, 1918.

(H) A veteran meets the service requirements of this section, if such veteran served in the active military, naval, or air service,

1. For ninety days or more during World War I;
2. During World War I and was discharged or released from such service for a service-connected disability;
3. For a period of ninety consecutive days or more and such period began or ended during World War I; and
4. For an aggregate of ninety days or more in two or more separate periods of service during more than one period of war.

. . . At this time, I will turn it back to Chairman William F. Lenker of South Dakota.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Res No: 231 (Indiana) Subject: **Support Legislation To Increase Allowances In Education And Training Under Chapter 34, Title 38, USC**

WHEREAS, A substantial number of Vietnam Era veterans are still training under Chapter 34 of Title 38, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, The education allowances payable to these veterans were last increased by Public Law 98-543, effective October 24, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Since these allowances were last increased the rate of inflation has continued to rise, thus the education benefits payable under Chapter 34 have not kept pace with increases in the cost of living as measured by the Consumer Price Index, and concurrent increases in the costs of tuition, books and other educational supplies; and

WHEREAS, Without continued increases in these allowances it can be expected that a large majority of those veterans now engaged in programs of education or training will have to forego or modify their plans to pursue programs of higher education; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is quite concerned about the continuing economic and readjustment problems, and the unemployment of the Vietnam Era veteran, and realizes that the aim and purpose of education and training programs is to provide such veterans with the career development needed to enter the employment field in competition with those individuals who did not serve in the Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation in the Congress of the United States to amend Chapter 34 of Title 38, United States Code, so as to increase the amounts payable under this Chapter by an amount equal to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Res No: 501 (Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) Subject: **Support Legislation To Exempt Chapter 34 Educational Assistance Benefits From Future Reductions Under Public Law 99-177 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act)**

WHEREAS, PL 99-177, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act) exempted certain veterans' benefits from future reductions which might be required under this law; and

WHEREAS, PL 99-576, the Veterans Benefits Improvement and Health-Care Authorization Act of 1986, has been enacted exempting certain additional veterans' benefits from future reductions which may be required under PL 99-177; and

WHEREAS, Educational assistance benefits for Vietnam Era veterans, under Chapter 34, Title 38, United States Code, have not been among those benefits exempted from future reductions required by PL 99-177; and

WHEREAS, Veterans pursuing a program of education or training under Chapter 34 may, in the event future reductions are ordered in accordance with the law, be forced to substantially alter or discontinue their program due to the reduced level of benefits; and

WHEREAS, All educational assistance benefits under Chapter 34 will terminate on December 31, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Eligible veterans have earned their educational benefits by virtue of their military service during a wartime period; and

WHEREAS, Veterans seeking to utilize their remaining eligibility before the expiration of the program should not be penalized by having their educational benefits reduced; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam Era veterans currently pursuing their education or training under Chapter 34 are, for the most part, those who have undergone readjustment problems subsequent to their military service, or who have been faced with severe economic problems because of unemployment or other factors; and

WHEREAS, Any future reduction in funding of education benefits in this program would adversely impact the ability of these veterans to pursue the career development needed to enter or reenter the employment field in competition with those individuals who did not serve in the Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support legislation to exempt Chapter 34 educational assistance benefits from future reductions under PL 99-177 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BOARDS

Res No: 306 (Virginia) Subject: **Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend Title 10, USC, So As To Eliminate All Time Limitations With Respect To Filing Applications For The Correction Of Military Or Naval Records**

WHEREAS, The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 provided recognition of representatives of The American Legion and other organizations to serve as counsel before discharge and retirement boards of the Armed Forces, and this recognition was extended to cover Boards for the Correction of Military and Naval Records when they were created by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was actively involved in the legislative process that established the Correction Boards under Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code; and

WHEREAS, Although under provision of 10 USC 1552 a three year statute of limitation is created which begins tolling from the date of discovery of an error or injustice on the military record of a former serviceperson, the Boards are also authorized under the statute to excuse filings beyond the three year period if it is in the interest of justice to do so; and

WHEREAS, For many years the Boards routinely waived the three year statute of limitations so as to provide veterans the opportunity to correct any error or injustice; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has now decided to "reinterpret" the law, refuse further waiver, and strictly invoke the three year time limitation in the name of cost-savings; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is of the opinion that the Department of Defense is clearly disregarding the intent of Congress, diluting the authority and usefulness of the Boards for the Correction of Military and Naval Records which are essential to the personnel system of the Department of Defense, and totally eliminating the ability of untold thousands of veterans to correct errors or injustices which exist in their service records, all in the name of fiscal austerity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 10, United States Code, so as to eliminate all time limitations with respect to filing applications for the correction of military or naval records.

RECEIVED AND RECORDED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 6 of the Fall 1966 meeting of the National Executive Committee amended the Uniform Code of Procedure for the organization of National Conventions to provide that the term "Received and Recorded" shall be applied to resolutions which reiterate or reaffirm a present policy or position of The American Legion, or which have been accomplished by law, regulation or by other purposes.

Policy

137 (North Dakota)—Support legislation so as to elevate the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet-level Department

288 (Iowa)—Urge the provision of adequate funding for Veterans Administration programs

340 (Pennsylvania)—Urge The American Legion to protest the proposed FY 1989 VA Budget

Claims and Rating

2 (Wyoming)—Support H.R. 1918—pension for World War I veterans

230 (Indiana)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 314(k), to include the loss of one lung or loss of one kidney to the list of anatomical loss or loss of use disabilities

REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions are being referred to the Standing Commission for staff study or administrative disposition.

Policy

239 (Minnesota)—Support the continuing education of Department Service Officers through instructional video cassettes

241 (Minnesota)—Seeks adequate funding for the implementation of the provisions of PL 100-322

245 (Minnesota)—Support the National Disaster Medical System

287 (Iowa)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, so as to provide that adult day care, hospice and respite programs can be implemented in state veterans homes on a cost-sharing basis with the VA

291 (Iowa)—Oppose GAO recommendation to reduce VA pension in cases where the beneficiary is in a community nursing home under Medicaid

322 (Massachusetts)—Oppose any further reductions, restrictions or elimination of benefits and services for veterans in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

324 (Massachusetts)—Urges the restructuring of salary for all positions in the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery

National Cemeteries

78 (Ohio)—Support the creation of a national cemetery in Northern Ohio

134 (New York)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, so as to provide a unit inscription on the headstones of KIAs at government expense

Medical and Hospital

104 (Oklahoma)—Urge the Veterans Administration to continue to provide a full range of medications for veterans

159 (Texas)—Urge the amendment of Federal Medicaid law so as to exclude VA pension benefits as income for determining eligibility for Medicaid assistance in nursing homes

160 (Texas)—Urge the Veterans Administration to provide self-supportive housing for the families of hospitalized veterans

203 (Wisconsin)—Urge the restoration of beneficiary travel allowance so as to be provided in the manner effective prior to April 13, 1987

VA Hospitals

The following resolutions are recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, with the request that each resolution be considered in conjunction with the Veterans Administration's overall planning to ensure that there will be sufficient hospital and nursing home care beds, other medical care, and domiciliary facilities, meeting the present high standards of the VA hospital system, and suitably located throughout the country for veterans requiring hospitalization and medical treatment, or domiciliary care, for their service-connected disabilities, and for war veterans suffering from nonservice-connected disabilities, and who are unable to pay for needed hospitalization, nursing or domiciliary care.

31 (Colorado)—Support funding for the Denver VAMC Geriatric Research Center

209 (Puerto Rico)—Urge the construction of a VA medical center at the Western end of Puerto Rico

244 (Minnesota)—Urge the Veterans Administration to retain Bldg. 43 and surrounding parking area located at the VA Medical Center Minneapolis for the provision of medical care to veterans

296 (Missouri)—Urge that the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri, be named in honor of General Omar Bradley

298 (Missouri)—Seeks to establish a VA outpatient clinic at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon, Missouri

319 (Massachusetts)—Urges the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to make a speedy decision with respect to the replacement or renovation of the Boston VA Medical Center

Claims and Rating

3 (South Dakota)—Amend 38 CFR 3.7, so as to authorize service-connected evaluations to persons who incur injury or disease while on Temporary Disability Retirement List

4 (South Dakota)—Amend 38 CFR 3.6, so as to include death occurring during inactive duty for training resulting from a disease process among those deaths considered to be service-connected

40 (Nebraska)—Seek increases in the amounts of disability compensation and nonservice-connected disability pension payable to incompetent single veterans

66 (Ohio)—Urge the Veterans Administration to reimburse burial expenses incurred through a burial trust

121 (Vermont)—Urge the provision of government-supplied flag markers along with government headstones

210 (Puerto Rico)—Urge the Congress to approve legislation to provide that the death of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated 80% or more for a period of over 20 years be considered a service-connected death

240 (Minnesota)—Amend 38 CFR 3.7, so as to authorize service-connected evaluations to persons who incur injury or disease while on Temporary Disability Retirement List

Insurance

136 (North Dakota)—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, so as to increase the face value of RH insurance

REJECTED RESOLUTIONS

Policy

37 (West Virginia)—Rescind the eligibility for veterans benefits provided former members of the Merchant Marine

89 (Maine)—Support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, so as to expand the period of the Vietnam Conflict

208 (Puerto Rico)—Urge the Congress to approve legislation that would exclude benefits paid by the Social Security Administration as income for pension purposes

242 (Minnesota)—Seek legislation to exempt from taxation the amounts of any debts owed to the VA of which payments have been waived

295 (Missouri)—Support legislation to amend the Social Security benefit reduction known as "Notch"

318 (South Carolina)—Support legislation to amend the Social Security benefit reduction known as "Notch"

341 (Pennsylvania)—Urge the establishment of legislation so as to revise the dependency and indemnity compensation program

Medical and Hospital

133 (New York)—Urge the rescission of all regulations restricting the amount of chiropractic care provided to Medicare eligible beneficiaries

. . . Mr. Commander, I move for adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The motion has been seconded. On the question. Microphone four.

DELEGATE TONY JORDAN, Maine: Mr. Tony Jordan, Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Maine.

I request Resolution No. 89 from the Department of Maine to be set aside.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER COMER: So ordered.

DELEGATE ROBERT VALIMONT, Pennsylvania: Bob Valimont, Delegate from Pennsylvania asks that No. 309, 313 and 339 be set aside for separate consideration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: So ordered.

Anything further on the question?

Hearing none, all those in favor of the Motion to accept the Report with the exception of 89, 309, 313 and 339 that have been set aside, all those in favor, aye; opposed. I declare the Motion carried.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: No. 89 was the first one set aside. We will take that first, if I may, I will read the entire resolution.

WHEREAS, Approximately 48,000 veterans served in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and August 5, 1964.

WHEREAS, February 28, 1961 is a date selected by the Department of the Army for the award of the Combat and Infantry Badge and the Combat Medal Badge, and

WHEREAS, February 28, 1961 is the date used by the Internal Revenue Code for income tax purposes for members of the Armed Forces serving in Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam veteran was engaged in combat upon the date of February 28, 1961; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support legislation that February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 be recognized as being the Federally recognized period of conflict for receiving any Veterans Administration benefits; and, be it further

RESOLVED, The adoption of this resolution will result in a multiple of benefits afforded by many of the states in this country.

Mr. Commander, I move this resolution be rejected.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Motion is made to reject Resolution No. 89, do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Mic. one.

DELEGATE TONY JORDAN: Mr. Commander, I request Resolution 89 be referred to the Legislative Commission for further study.

As this resolution addresses the expanding of VA benefits, not the expanding of eligibility for The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Motion to refer to the October meeting, is that it?

DELEGATE JORDAN: Yes sir, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: All right, you heard the motion to refer Resolution No. 89 to the October meetings in Indianapolis.

. . . The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: All those in favor, aye; opposed. The ayes have it and it is a vote and I so declare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Mr. Lenker will read Resolution 309.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN LENKER: Resolution No. 309, I will read it in its entirety.

The subject is "Sponsor And Support Legislation To Amend Title 38, USC, So As To Establish The Veterans Reassurance Act of 1989.

WHEREAS, From the time of its founding in 1919, The American Legion has been committed to the interests and the well-being of all veterans, their dependents and survivors who are in need of veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, Provision of the World War Veterans Act of 1924 recognized The American Legion and certain other veterans organizations for the presentation of veterans claims, and a 1936 amendment to the Act limited such recognition to accredited representatives of the recognized veterans organizations; and

WHEREAS, Accredited representatives of The American Legion have the ability to assist veterans, dependents and survivors in securing benefits, but the responsibility for rendering decisions as to entitlement rests solely with the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Administration has historically been charged with the responsibility of the development of claims; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has challenged the agency on occasion as it has not always developed claims to the fullest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, The adjudication and appeal processes of the Veterans Administration as set forth in Title 38, United States Code, are frequently criticized by some as being so flawed as to require court action to rectify erroneous decisions in individual benefit claims; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion recognizes that the Veterans Administration is beset with a variety of complex administrative and budgetary problems, including persistent personnel cuts in the Department of Veterans Benefits as a result of budget reductions; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion perceives a need for improvement in due process procedures, quality control, and the need for a more independent governmental oversight of VA procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals is currently bound by VA regulations, policies, and General Counsel precedent opinions which sometimes hinder its ability to rule favorably on an otherwise meritorious claim; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion considers the current $10.00 limitation on attorney fees to be antiquated and unjustified; and

WHEREAS, Although The American Legion has opposed the amendment of 38 USC 211(a), so as to authorize judicial review of decisions of individual claims, the organization has historically supported complete judicial review of regulations and other constitutional issues; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Veterans Appeals is not, and has not been as independent of the Veterans Administration as The American Legion feels is appropriate and necessary and the adjudication and appellate processes of the Veterans Administration should be improved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation that will set forth the following amendments to Title 138, United States Code:

1. Clarify the existing rights to limited judicial review of determinations by the Board of Veterans Appeals on issues involving a challenge to the validity of VA regulations or other constitutional issues;
2. Provide a reasonable and responsible increase in the fee in which claimants may be charged by private attorneys for legal representation in claims.
3. Any additional amendments deemed necessary upon further review, to improve the adjudication and appeal processes of the Veterans Administration;
4. Limit the liability of an individual accredited representative and the recognized organization with whom he or she is associated, in the case of an injury arising from the investigation, preparation, presentation or prosecution of a claim:
5. Add a new section to protect the privacy of communications between claimants and their representatives;
6. Provide for due process notification to an appellant concerning consideration of newly developed additional evidence in a claim, to include the notification of the right to a personal hearing on such additional evidence;
7. Provide for a personal hearing in the course of the review of a claim, to set forth the circumstances which a finally disallowed claim may be reopened, and to provide the Board of Veterans Appeals broader authority and in dependence in its review of claims;
8. Include a new manner in which to provide a means satisfactory to The American Legion for resolving differences in medical opinions material to the outcome of a case;
9. Provide statutory procedures to be followed by the Veterans Administration in conducting a hearing, investigation or any other proceeding in conjunction with the consideration of a claim for VA benefits;
10. Set forth provisions for notice to the claimant of all material procedural rights at each stage of a claim;
11. Remove from the Board the obligation to adhere to the regulations, policies and

General Counsel precedent opinions, and authorize the Board to challenge the validity of VA regulations, statements of general policy and interpretations of general applicability;

12. Subject the promulgation of rules and regulations by the Administrator to the administrative procedures law.

Your Commission has approved this resolution; your National Executive Committeeman has approved this resolution, and I so move the adoption of this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The motion has been made to adopt the resolution.

Do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

National Commander Comer hearing a second, on the question. Mr. Lenker of South Dakota.

O.K., Microphone 4.

DELEGATE ROBERT VALIMONT, Pennsylvania: Bob Valimont, Delegate from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania had Resolution No. 339, which was consolidated with 309.

Long have we urged that something be done with regard to review of judicial claims.

The highest government operations committee just within the past couple of weeks reported that there are some 13% of all claims that are approved; that most claims they take an average of 7.8 minutes for disposal; that there may have been a quota systems imposed within the Board of Appeals.

They found that there was an 8.4 substantive error which resulted in the denial of appeals. They found that there was 18.2% rate for judgmental errors made in them, even though they had the correct facts.

We feel that this is something that has to be alleviated, something that has to be remedied.

Our Pennsylvania resolution provided for judicial review, limited judicial review on the individual claims. Res. 309 goes a long way at this time for recognizing the shortfalls in the VA. It provides for an independence in the Board of Appeals.

It provides for reasonable counsel fees.

It provides for clarification of the judicial review, where constitutional and regulatory matters are concerned.

It provides for consideration of additional matters of amendment in judicial review and the appeal progress, it being necessary.

I have discussed this matter with the Chairman of this Committee. I was most concerned that Resolution 313 which has also been separately set aside, is the old resolution, which opposes everything, and which would go along and be in contradiction of 309, if 309 passes.

I am prepared, on behalf of our Delegation to authorize the continuation and consolidation of 313 with 309 with the understanding that the Chairman will join with me in a motion to refer—no, 309 and 339 together, if, the Chairman would join with me in a referral of 313 to the Standing Commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Chairman Lenker.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: The Chairman would go along with your recommendation.

I understand Pennsylvania is supporting our new Legion Reassurance Act, is that correct, sir?

DELEGATE VALIMONT: We are supporting it. We just hope you would go a little bit further, real soon.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 5.

DELEGATE BREEN: Pat Breen, Illinois. I am speaking in favor of the Commission, the Convention Committee, and the National Executive Committee on Resolution 309.

Basically, gentlemen, this will solve the problems. Anybody that has been a Service Officer for years, most likely has been through this appeals system. You can go back and go back and go back, as long as you have some evidence.

In regard to full judicial review, it will be set up by the President, and once you are lost, you are dead.

Now the gentleman from Pennsylvania said, "Reasonable fees." The fee schedule that I have seen for a reasonable case is an attorney can draw up to $500. If he spends additional time to learn what the Service Officer already knows, especially the people in our national staff, he can collect $750.

The next fee, if it takes more time than that, he can get 25% of the total award to the veteran, or his dependents.

This Resolution 309 agrees that the $10 fee is not reasonable anymore, but I would think that we should stick with the resolution sponsored that they have spent close to two years time studying.

The control of this would be done by basically the veterans organization.

If we give this away to all of the attorneys, we will have court case after court case after court case.

They have tried judicial review for the last four or five years, and the people that are really interested in this program, we have beat them every time. Now they are trying a different approach.

But gentlemen, the recommendations and the improvement on this Resolution 309, which has 12 different sections, in my opinion, is that it would cover and solve the problem.

Gentlemen, I vote in favor with the Chair's recommendation of Resolution 309.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, sir.

Further question. Microphone No. 1.

DELEGATE STELLAR, Ohio: Mr. Commander, Stellar from the Department of Ohio.

Mr. Chairman and Mr. Commander, I rise to support the Chairman.

We are in a position now where this can be considered in the Halls of Congress to establish and improve the system for the veterans of America. And if they want to employ an attorney, they would get a reasonable fee.

The man who argued against this resolution quoted you many figures that was hearsay, that is exactly what would happen to it in the courts of our land.

We of The American Legion are willing to use that, but he says, he is quoting that here, he wants to use it both ways.

Gentlemen, Delegates of this Convention, I urge you to support the Chair. Let's adopt this resolution and help the veterans of America.

Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, Mr. Stellar.

Any further on the question?

DELEGATE RONALD CONLEY, Pennsylvania: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Before you speak, is your Delegation in complete unanimity on this question?

DELEGATE CONLEY: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Continue.

DELEGATE CONLEY: Ronald Conley, Delegate from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has just made a statement that we support the merger of 309 and 339, and to refer the other one to the Standing Committee.

I think the other two gentlemen that spoke can understand our position.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I do, sir, and I am ready to have a substitute motion to that effect from Mr. Lenker of South Dakota.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Since I made the original motion, I would move to approve 309, which was the consolidated resolution with 339 from Pennsylvania, the way it was written originally.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You heard the motion to combine 309 and 339.

. . . The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It has been seconded by Ron Conley of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: On the question, all those in favor aye; those opposed no. The ayes have it.

And now I have a motion from Mr. Valimont of Pennsylvania to refer 313 to the Standing Commission and it has been seconded.

On the question, all those in favor; those opposed. The ayes have it, and I so declare it carried.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I declare now the Report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair recognizes Milton Applebaum of Illinois, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments for the purpose of making a report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Milton Applebaum (IL) Chairman

To the Seventieth Annual National Convention of The American Legion, Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988.

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 4, 1988, at the Commonwealth Convention Center, Room 110, Lower Level. Forty-eight members of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments were present. The following report was agreed upon by the members and is submitted for your consideration as Delegates to this Convention.

The meeting was opened by National Judge Advocate P.B. Onderdonk, Jr. (Md.), who acted as temporary chairman. The roll call indicated that a quorum was present. Committee Liaison Onderdonk proceeded to the first order of business which was the election of a permanent chairman and secretary Milton Applebaum (Ill.), was elected Chairman and Coleman Nolen (Okla.), was duly elected Secretary, thereupon they assumed their respective places.

Copies of all the Resolutions, the Report of the Standing Committee, the Godwin Special Study on Membership Eligibility Report, and copies of the National Constitution and By-Laws as revised August 26, 1987, were made available to all members of the Committee.

A motion was made by Leon Reed (Ark.), and duly seconded, that all members of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws who were present at the meeting, be seated with voice but without vote. Motion was carried.

The Chairman asked that the Secretary read the Report of the Standing Committee for the information of the delegates present. The Secretary read the entire report.

The Chair announced that he was in agreement with the Report of the Standing Committee that Resolutions No. 67 (Ohio), No. 107 (Ill.) and No. 292 (Ga.), were out of order and that these resolutions would not be considered by the Convention Committee.

The meeting then proceeded to consideration of Resolution No. 139 (Tex.). This resolution proposed a change in Article IV, Section 1 and 2 of the National By-Laws of The American Legion to eliminate an alleged conflict in the language.

The Standing Committee's report demonstrated that there was no conflict and recommended rejection of the resolution. A motion was made and duly seconded that Resolution No. 139 (Tex.) be rejected. The motion for rejection was adopted.

The meeting then proceeded to the consideration of Resolutions No. 27 (Fr.) and No. 198 (Wis.). The Chair stated that the resolutions were identical in every way and the resolutions were considered together. The resolutions proposed an enlargement of eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion for a new period of service, namely, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984.

A motion was made by Herb Robinson (Fla.) and seconded by Frank J. Kosanda (N.D.), to reject. It was extensively debated. James E. Chapin (Wis.), Michael R. Verville (Fr.) and Ronald E. Conley (Pa.) spoke at length against rejection. Francis L. Giordano (N.Y.), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and Herb Robinson (Fla.), spoke in support of the motion to reject the resolution.

The motion to reject was put to the meeting. The Chairman ruled that the motion to reject the resolution had carried by a voice vote. The Delegates from France and Wisconsin requested a roll call vote, which was granted. The Secretary called the roll and the roll call vote showed, yeas—32, nays—16. The Chair declared again that Resolutions No. 27 (Fr.) and No. 198 (Wis.), had been rejected.

The next resolution to be considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 165 (Pa.). This resolution proposed an enlargement of the eligibility dates for a new period which commences December 7, 1941, for an indefinite, undetermined period.

Motion to reject was made by Robert J. Lauer (Del.), seconded by J. B. Loring (Tenn.). Ronald F. Conley (Pa.) reiterated briefly reasons in support of the resolution and against the motion to reject. The motion to reject Resolution No. 165 (Pa.) was put to the meeting and was carried by a voice vote. Ronald F. Conley (Pa.), Michael R. Verville (Fr.) and James E. Chapin (Wis.), requested that they be recorded as voting against rejection.

The next resolution that the Committee considered was Resolution No. 347 (Calif.). This resolution proposed two classes of eligibility for membership in The American Legion, "for any person who had honorable service from April 6, 1917 to perpetuity" or "be a United States citizen who served in the armed forces of an allied government during specified periods."

A motion to reject Resolution No. 347 (Calif.) was made by Alfred Harwood (Mass.), seconded by Frank J. Kosanda (N.D.). The motion to reject the resolution was carried by a voice vote. Keith Truax (Calif.), Michael R. Verville (Fr.) and James E. Chapin (Wis.) asked to be recorded as being in favor of the resolution.

A motion was made by John A. Barnaba (N.Y.), seconded by James J. Fenton (N.H.) that the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws be made a part of the report of this Committee and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Herb Robinson (Fla.), seconded by J.B. Loring (Tenn.), that the Chairman and Secretary be authorized to sign the report to the Convention on behalf of all the Committee members. The motion was carried.

A motion to recess subject to the call of the Chair was duly made by E. Roy Stone (S.C.). It was seconded by numerous persons. The motion passed and the meeting was recessed subject to recall by the Chairman.

REPORT TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws met in Room 114, Lower Level, Commonwealth Convention Center, on September 3, 1988, at 9:00 a.m., to consider eight resolutions received proposing changes in the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

Francis L. Giordano (N.Y.) Chairman, presided and Milton S. Applebaum (Ill.), was designated as Recorded Secretary. There were nine members present and Thomas A. Miller, Sr. (Fla.), Consultant, was also present.

The first order of business was consideration of Resolutions No. 27 (France) and 198 (Wis.). These resolutions being similar were considered at the same time.

These resolutions sought to keep the present eligibility dates and add the dates for eligibility for membership in The American Legion for members of the Armed Forces who served during the period August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984.

A similar resolution was submitted to The American Legion National Convention which met in San Antonio, Texas, in 1987 and was rejected at the said Convention by the members of The American Legion.

These resolutions would permit members of the Armed Forces who served during incursions of peace-keeping actions and not wartime engagements as members of The American Legion. These resolutions would make any person, veteran and non-veteran, eligible for membership in The American Legion. These resolutions could change the character of The American Legion as an organization of veterans who served during wartime.

These resolutions could result in The American Legion losing its tax exemption as a veterans organization. The resolutions would permit a two-class membership in The American Legion, those entitled to veterans benefits due to service during wartime and those not entitled to benefits due to service during peacetime. This change from a wartime veterans organization to one comprising peacetime servicemen would seriously diminish our influence in Congress for benefits for service during wartime.

The Legion's Federal income tax exemption would be jeopardized. Money and material contributed to the organization as a charitable contribution can presently be deducted from one's individual income tax liability. Gifts to Legion Posts can be treated as gift tax deductions on individual tax returns. This was recently reaffirmed by an IRS ruling, and the ruling was almost exclusively based upon a "war veterans" identification. In fact, the ruling (September, 1984), clarified these tax considerations by requiring at least 90% of the members of the group receiving the contribution/gift must be "war veterans."

The change of dates as requested in these resolutions could bring the membership in The American Legion below the 90% "war veterans" membership as required by the IRS for tax exemption.

A motion was made by Alfred F. Harwood (Mass.), to reject Resolutions No. 27 (France) and 198 (Wis.) and seconded by Harry G. Scoufos, Jr. (Okla). The motion to reject was unanimously adopted.

The next resolution considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 139 (Texas). This resolution sought to amend Article IV, Section 1, of the National By-Laws of The American Legion.

This resolution alleged that there was a conflict between Section 1 and Section 2 of the said Article in that it was claimed that Section 1 permits only a Post to judge and discipline a Post member, whereas Section 2 permits both a Post and Department to try a Post member.

The language of this resolution referring to Section 1, which states, "Each Post of The American Legion shall be the judge of its own membership", had been taken out of context and the resolutions adds the words to the said part of Section 1, "and discipline", which words do not appear in any part of the body of Article IV of the National By-Laws of The American Legion.

Section 1 of the said Article grants to the Post only the right to be the judge of the admissibility of individuals to the membership of the Post.

Section 2 provides the grounds upon which a trial may be held by the Post or Department for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

The Committee is of the opinion that there is no conflict in the said Article IV of the National By-Laws of The American Legion.

By motion made by Milton S. Applebaum (Ill.), to reject this resolution, seconded by Alfred F. Harwood (Mass.), the motion to reject Resolution No. 139 (Texas) was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 165 (Pa.) was then considered by the Committee. This resolution sought to change the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion by retaining the eligibility period for World War I service, but opening up the date for membership in The American Legion from December 7, 1941 and thereafter. The terminal date was left open in that portion of the resolution which dealt with amending the eligibility period for membership in The American Legion forever with no terminal date.

That part of the resolution which dealt with membership in The American Legion Auxiliary omitted eligibility to membership therein by great granddaughters which was adopted at the 1987 Convention of The American Legion upon request of The American Legion Auxiliary. This resolution, if adopted, would in effect, make The American Legion an open ended membership organization.

The adoption of this resolution would create a two-class membership in The American Legion, those who served during wartime and non-wartime servicemen and thereby place The American Legion in a position of losing its exempt status under the laws and regulations of the Internal Revenue Code and decisions as a tax exempt organization.

A study has shown that the number of veterans to be gained by such a change in the character of our organization would be too great a price to pay.

A Special Study Committee which included members throughout The American Legion and chaired by Ralph M. Godwin (Miss.), reported to the National Executive Committee in May, 1985, as follows:

"Your Committee has considered the history and precedents of the past eligibility studies, and we recognize that we live in a different world today, one far different from that of two (2) decades ago. There is a strong possibility that the United States will be continuously facing all types of 'police actions' or 'hostilities' in all parts of the world. We may find ourselves in a state of continuing 'cold war' with no starting date and no ending date. "Experience after the Korean War shows that INCREASED POTENTIAL does not necessarily mean INCREASED MEMBERSHIP."

A motion was made by William W. Greeman (Ind.), to reject Resolution No. 165 (Pa.), was seconded by Chester W. Howard (Nev.). The motion to reject was unanimously adopted.

The next resolution to be considered was Resolution No. 67 (Ohio) sought to extend eligibility dates from January 1, 1959 to May 15, 1975. This resolution was not in proper form for constitutional amendment. In view thereof, the Chairman ruled the said resolution out of order.

Resolution No. 107 (Ill.) was then brought before the Committee. This resolution requested that eligibility dates be set forth for eligibility of members of the Merchant Marines and certain civilian employees.

This resolution was not in proper form for amendment of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion and, therefore, the Chairman ruled the resolution out of order with the comment that the National Judge Advocate, through a bulletin issued on January 28, 1988, set forth the eligibility requirements of members of the Merchant Marine for membership in The American Legion.

Resolution No. 292 (Ga.), was then brought before the Committee. This resolution sought "to include the dates, October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983; January 20, 1986 to June 27, 1986; July 24, 1987 to the date yet to be determined by the Government of the United States" just prior to the present wording "all dates inclusive."

The Chairman stated that the resolution was not in proper form for a constitutional amendment and ruled it out of order.

Resolution No. 347 (Calif.) was next considered by the Committee. This resolution has dual dates for service in the Armed Forces of the United States for membership in The American Legion, the first being a period from April 6, 1917 to perpetuity and the second readopting the dates presently American Legion eligibility dates for service in armies of foreign governments associated with the United States.

The Committee further noted that the portion pertaining to membership in The American Legion Auxiliary omitted membership to great granddaughters, which was adopted by the membership at the National Convention of 1987 in San Antonio, Texas.

A motion to reject this resolution was made by Alfred F. Harwood (Mass.), seconded by Harry G. Scoufos, Jr. (Okla.). The motion to reject was unanimously adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, by motion made by H.F. Gierke (N.D.), seconded by Keith D. Truax (Calif.), the Committee adjourned.

This concludes our report.

I would like to make a motion, Mr. Commander, that the report of the Constitutional Amendments Committee be approved.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: On the question, Microphone 3.

DELEGATE ROBERT LANGDON, Wisconsin: Bob Langdon, Delegate from Wisconsin. I move to set aside Resolution 198 for further action.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It is so ordered. Microphone 4.

DELEGATE RONALD CONLEY, Pennsylvania: Mr. Commander, Ron Conley from Pennsylvania. I move that we set aside Resolution 165 for consideration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It is so ordered. Microphone 3.

DELEGATE ARNIE MATANKY, France: Mr. Commander, Arnie Matanky, Department of France. I move we set aside Resolution 127 from France.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: So ordered.

Hearing nothing further the motion is to adopt the Committee report of the Constitutional Amendments Committee. It has been seconded, with the exception of 198, 27 and

165 which have been set aside. On the question, all those—DELEGATE JERRY A. KAUTZER, Wisconsin: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Yes.

DELEGATE KAUTZER: Mr. Commander, Jerry Kautzer from Wisconsin. Clarification on the vote. A no vote means the resolution comes back to the floor, is this correct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: A yes vote is an adoption of this Committee report with the exception of the three Resolutions which have been set aside and will be taken up separately by a separate vote.

On the question, all those in favor; opposed. The ayes have it.

I recognize the Chairman for the reading of the resolution.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: Commander, may I read the resolved clauses only?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Do you wish the whole thing read?

DELEGATE KAUTZER: Mr. Chairman, read the whole resolution.

. . . Committee Chairman Applebaum read the following resolution:

Res No: 198 (Wisconsin) Subject: **Change In Eligibility Dates For Membership In The American Legion**

WHEREAS, The eligibility dates for The American Legion are determined by the Congress of the United States of America by the establishment of specific dates during which the United States of America was involved in a war, declared or undeclared, or other hostilities; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan sent an official notification to Congress on August 24, 1982, of his order dispatching the Marines. The notification, required under the War Powers Act, emphasized that there was 'no intention or expectation the U.S. Armed Forces will become involved in hostilities' but they could 'exercise the right of self defense and will be equipped accordingly', and

WHEREAS, The passage of the War Powers Resolution, P.L. 93-148, by the Congress of the United States over the Presidential veto on November 7, 1973. This resolution determines that those veterans serving between these dates are 'war veterans' in every sense of the word, and

WHEREAS, The Marines of the 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit landed in Beirut August 25, 1982, and took up positions in the port area. In that engagement, 8,000 served off-shore, 4,800 on shore. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded to all who served; 256 members of the military were killed and 80 were wounded in the Lebanon Crisis, and

WHEREAS, During the period of the invasion of Grenada, which is included within the dates of August 25, 1982 to July 31, 1984, a total of 7,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces participated. Eighteen were killed, 97 were wounded. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded. A total of 8,612 medals were awarded, 4,581 Commendation Medals and numerous unit citations were presented. A total of 681 Bronze Stars also were awarded, and

WHEREAS, Those who served in the Armed Forces between the dates of August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 are definitely considered to be 'war veterans' under the provisions of the War Powers resolution followed by the President of the United States, and

WHEREAS, To further identify these military veterans, serving from August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, as war veterans, the Federal Government grants veterans preference to these veterans seeking federal employment, and

WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps classified its fatalities at Beirut as 'Killed In Action'. Those who died there while serving with the U.S. Navy also were determined as 'Killed In Action', and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the majority of the members of the Special Eligibility Committee that those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States between the dates of August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984, meet all of the requirements to be defined as a 'war veteran' as did those who served in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. These veterans serving in the Armed Forces between these dates should be eligible to become members of The American Legion. These new dates of eligibility would make a potential two million veterans eligible to join The American Legion.

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the Special Eligibility Committee that the term 'war veteran' will bring additional honor and prestige to The American Legion as we accept these new veterans as members of our organization. Accepting these new veterans will bring youthful leadership to our organization and recognize the young veteran who served his country with distinction and honor.

WHEREAS, Not to accept those who served between the date of August 24, 1982 until July 31, 1984, would destroy the very concept of The American Legion which recognizes the comradeship of those who served our nation in time of war. War, realistically, must be defined under the provision of the War Powers Resolution passed by the Congress of the United States.

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion support our present men and women serving in the Armed Forces of our country today who are the real guardians of peace and each day of their lives are placed in jeopardy as they perform their peacekeeping mission. Today men and women in the military service face greater danger than many World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Wisconsin American Legion in Convention assembled this 9th day of July, 1988 at Eau Claire, Wisconsin that:

The National Legislative commission be authorized and directed to petition the Congress of the United States to further amend Section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion' Public Law No. 47, 66th Congress, approved September 16, 1919 (c. 59 Sec. 541, Stat. 285; October 29, 1942, c. 633, Sec. 2 56 Stat. 1012; July 9, 1946, c 546 60 Stat. 524; December 28, 1950, c. 1177, 64 Stat. 1122; July 26, 1955, c. 386, Sec. 2, Stat. 380; September 1, 1966, Public Law 89-550, Section 2, 80 Stat. 372, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45; December 27, 1974, Public Law 93-557, Sec. 5, 41 Stat. 285, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45; December 21, 1979, Public Law 96-155), to read then as follows:

"Section 5.—'No person shall be a member of this Corporation unless he has served in the naval or military services of the United States at some time during any of the following periods:

WHEREAS, April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein, served in the military or naval services of the governments associated with the United States during said war or hostilities; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that such person shall have an honorable discharge or separation from such service or continue to serve honorably' ", and, be it further

RESOLVED, That when and if the Congress of the United States enacts the above amendment, and the President of the United States shall have approved the same and it becomes law, then the National Constitution of The American Legion shall be deemed amended in conformance therewith, but subject to all consistent limitations and restrictions in the Constitution contained, all as provided for under Article XVII thereof, so that Article IV, Section 1, The American Legion Constitution shall read as follows:

"ARTICLE IV—ELIGIBILITY"

"Section 1—'Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods:

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or is continued honorably; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of the periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.' "

"ARTICLE XIII—AUXILIARIES"

"Section 2—'Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, and great granddaughters of members of The American Legion and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods:

April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion;'"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be submitted to The American Legion 1988 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky for consideration.

This was submitted by the Department of Wisconsin.

I move the rejection of this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The motion has been made by the Chairman for the rejection of Resolution No. 198. Do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: On the question Microphone 3.

DELEGATE KAUTZER: Yes, I would like a clarification. Point of order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: What is your point of order?

DELEGATE KAUTZER: Clarification. A no vote means the resolution comes back on the floor, is this correct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: A yes vote would adopt the Convention report on Resolution No. 198. A no vote would just continue the debate and then an ultimate motion would have to be made to amend the constitution. Is that clear?Microphone 3.

DELEGATE JAMES CHAPIN, Wisconsin: James Chapin, a Delegate from the Department of Wisconsin.

We would like the individuals of this 70th Annual Convention to consider this Resolution.

Back at the National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, then National Commander Clarence Bacon and the Delegates of that Convention created a special membership study committee. The dates of these changes and the eligibility dates are the same dates as the special Godwin eligibility study dates.

I would like to point out a few things that were read in this Resolution that must be of great importance to each and every one of us.

Yes, we are war time veterans, and, yes, the Congress of the United States has determined the veterans that we are talking about in this Resolution as war time veterans.

The President of the United States Ronald Reagan has said they are veterans. The Department of Defense says they are veterans. The Marines listed their men as killed in action. How much farther do we have to go? Are they not eligible veterans?

The special study committee said they were and recommended the same dates to the National Executive Committeemen to be approved. They in turn chose not to.

Let's fact it, this is a grass roots Resolution. It comes from the people. It comes from the heartland of this country. They consider these individuals veterans, war time veterans.

For many like myself, and I have to include in the Korean veterans, we were not in a declared time of war we were in a police action or an excursion which was later called a war. I see no way that any Korean veteran or Vietnam veteran could go against these dates, because these men have met the same criteria that we did when we were allowed to join The American Legion. They met the same criteria other than the part of the declared war from World War I and World War II. What is the problem with calling these individuals war time veterans and allowing them into our ranks?

As the Committee report stated, this covers only 2.1 million veterans. I heard all the comments on affecting our veterans status, our tax exemption, but if we look at our own ranks and we realize that we are only signing up 10% of the eligible veterans, if we were lucky to sign up 10% we are looking at 200,000 people. Now, this isn't going to affect our tax exempt status, with a ruling by the Supreme Court ruled in favor of The American Legion nine to one that we were a separate veterans organization.

Two hundred thousand isn't going to affect our tax exempt status. Now, the fear of letting these men and women in, who served our country so bravely, is foolish. They are war time veterans and let's consider them that. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I will call on Chairman Applebaum who will now take the microphone.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: Mr. Commander and Delegates. There is just some misunderstanding of the Godwin report. There were four alternatives not one recommendation. Three of the alternatives that were recommended were rejection by the Committee and the fourth one was recommended for adoption by a four to three vote, and because the membership of the Committee changed their mind, and for other reasons which I would like to elaborate on, the NEC rejected the one recommendation that they were in doubt about.

Now, it is unfair to this Convention to say that the Godwin Committee recommended this. They did not recommend it. It was a seven man committee and the membership has changed their mind, well, not all but enough to make it a recommendation that was changed by the time it came to the NEC, it was not made for a Convention of this body.

All right, now there is a lot to be said why they changed their mind. There is no particular war powers, there is no particular declaration of war by Congress that established these dates as those dates that The American Legion would have to follow. As a result we have no guidance, no direction from Congress on that. We would have to go to Congress and take these dates to them.

There is differences of opinion. This was brought up in the Convention Committee, the Constitutional Amendments Committee, where we considered the same arguments and rejected this amendment. Several conventions have also rejected it.

Without going into other reasons of why these men, whom we are not against, we have no criticism of their service or the quality of their service or the fact that they have performed nobly in defense of their country and followed the orders that they were to follow as military men, but we think, and this is what our Committee feels, that we can help these men in their objectives and we can help ourselves in our objectives if we remain separate and distinct until Congress permits a period of time that might be suitable to them.

There is no reason to criticize their quality or to say that the quality of our service requires that we must combine ourselves into an umbrella organization. So, I urge you to support the Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 4.

DELEGATE EDWARD T. HOAK, Pennsylvania: Ed Hoak, Delegate from Pennsylvania. As a member of the original Committee studying eligibility change to admit the Vietnam veterans and as a member of the Committee known as the Godwin Committee. Change is something that this American Legion has to be adaptable to. Change will only promote this organization to keep the programs and the good things that we are doing.

You heard the President of the United States last night commend those people who went into the Libya operation, and to Grenada, and to Beirut, all around the world. He said these are the best young men, these are good young men because The American Legion had some influence over them in the youth programs of The American Legion.

Does this American Legion want to have another change in eligibility leveled by the courts of the United States as we did with the Merchant Marine? Let us state to these people, you fought, you served your country, now is the time that we want you to come in and join hands.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 6.

DELEGATE HERBERT ROBINSON, Florida: Mr. Commander, Herb Robinson, a Delegate from Florida. I am in complete sympathy with all of the proponents of adopting this resolution, however, I am speaking against it.

There are some facts that we glossed over and tend to overlook. I believe it is part of Title 38 that sets forth the benefits, etc., that war veterans get, and Title 38 has not been extended to include these veterans, they are covered under a different law.

Also there is the old tired saw of the IRS that says 90% of your veterans must be war veterans to enjoy the benefits of tax exemptions, etc., and they are not always amenable to resolutions out of Congress or other places. So, I think we have got to take a long hard look at the financial problems that could result from taking in these veterans and vote accordingly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Are you all through, sir?

DELEGATE ROBINSON: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone four again.

DELEGATE RONALD CONLEY: Pennsylvania: Mr. Commander, Ronald Conley, Delegate from the State of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ron Conley, I ask you again on this particular question is your delegation unanimous in their decision on this vote?

DELEGATE CONLEY: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Continue.

DELEGATE CONLEY: First of all, one of the Resolutions that came up on the Godwin report was to make no eligibility change at all, and that was one of the three that was rejected.

We sit here and we look up at the 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion. We pride ourselves on what we do in our communities and for our nation and for peace in the world. The veterans have served their country for that peace. But we realize that changes in the world today does not necessarily permit a limited type warfare that was in Vietnam or Korea. Certainly we are not going to have a war that we had in World War I or II. If we do it will probably become a nuclear war.

People have served their country from the beginning of time, since this country was founded, for ideals and beliefs, for principles, for God and Country. We go around and pat ourselves on the back because we believe in that. We have a wall at Washington, D.C., with 58,000 names on it of Vietnam veterans, including women, and we also have names now of people that have shed their blood in Beirut, Grenada and Central America and throughout this world, either through small operations that we have such as Grenada or through terrorists' acts, but it is still blood shed for this country for the same principles that have always been fought for.

We talk about the change as far as the tax. The VFW is not going to change their tax status. It doesn't change the Catholic war veterans or other veterans organizations that are now bringing in these people into it.

We talk about what we are going to do for our country. This American Legion was founded by World War I veterans with vision and compassion and commitment. Are we going to sit here today and not have that same type of vision? Are we not going to sit there and make sure that our country is free seventy years from now?

The American Legion is the only organization that goes out and defends those principles loud and clear. We want to make sure that this organization is going to be around so that we can have the children and the youth programs and the baseball programs and we are going to take care of the Veterans Administration hospitals and make sure that our veterans are being taken care of, we want a Cabinet position for the VA. So, can we let The American Legion die?

The Veterans Membership Committee, the National Committee, has talked about the charge that they have and how we are going to set goals on membership. The last four years the membership increased mainly because of the DMS. Without the DMS we would have been on a downhill slide for membership in The American Legion.

Fifty-eight percent of The American Legion is World War II veterans. The membership base of this organization is being deteriorated each and every year because of the deaths of our World War I and II veterans, and this is one thing that everybody is going to face someday, death.

Let's have a little bit of vision, let's sit here and open the ranks of The American Legion, and if we have to change laws in the halls of Congress and the IRS we are going to be strong enough and powerful enough to do it. My fellow delegates, I urge you to reject your recommendation of the Chair and support Wisconsin's Resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 3.

DELEGATE MICHAEL R. VERVILLE, France: Mr. Commander, Michael Verville, a Delegate from France. You have heard what your fellow Delegates have said in behalf of supporting the Resolution, that has spoke on approving the Resolution and not rejecting it.

I say to you a few comments were made, and I won't bore you with details, but one of the reasons we had such a long Resolution was in order to meet the technicalities that had to be laid out in order for that Resolution to pass, because each year many of the resolutions that you as delegations put in get rejected. This one is there. We apologize for the length, but we felt it was so important that it came out in detail so that it couldn't get rejected so we had to put the words in.

I know the Commander is going to ask me where my Delegation stands.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: No, sir. No, sir, I am not going to ask you. When I need to ask you I will.

DELEGATE VERVILLE: Thank you, Commander. There has been a statement made by the Chairman, and I respect the Chairman, that the Godwin Commission changed their minds. When the Godwin Commission studied this there was eight months or so approximately worth of deliberations went into this. Every one of the issues that you heard on tax exempt status, etc., was covered under the Godwin Commission. Every one of the concerns that you hear about losing tax exempt status was also brought out.

The statement was made, "Wait until Congress permits the time for this service." I say to you that Congress isn't going to come up with a time for this service unless you and I and every one of the Delegation members here and each of the Delegates push this Resolution through and ask Congress to make that change on our behalf. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 6.

DELEGATE CHARLES VAWTER, Arizona: Chuck Vawter, Delegate from Arizona, a Member of the Convention Committee.

I rise to support the Chairman and to support the action of the Convention Committee. The American Legion's eligibility has always been tied to a time of service not a place or type of service. The special significance of war time service has been universally recognized. During the time of war there is a draft which brings civilians into the military for the sole purpose of defending their country. The special nature of the patriotic war time service has been recognized by the courts, legislatures and branches of government at every level.

The eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion corresponds to the dates of war set by the United States Congress. Because of these eligibility dates The American Legion receives special benefits to lobby Congress for tax purposes. If our eligibility requirements change and we are no longer a war time veterans group then donations to Posts would not be tax deductible and income to Posts would be threatened.

The United States Supreme Court has recently said that war time veterans groups are entitled to their special rights to lobby Congress, that are given by statute and the Internal Revenue Service, because of the special and sacred nature of the service during the time of war when there is a draft.

If The American Legion eligibility is changed all this could be threatened. Even if Congress and the Internal Revenue Service changed its policies and decided to allow The American Legion the same benefits we enjoy now these actions could be challenged in court, and it is only our status as a war time veterans group that can guarantee that our status can not be challenged.

In the eyes of the courts and the legislatures the nature of service during time of war and when there is a draft is fundamentally different. Posts and Departments now receive gifts that the donor can deduct from his taxes solely because The American Legion is a war time veterans group. The Internal Revenue Service can and does challenge donations to veterans groups on the grounds that the groups are not war time veterans groups. The Internal Revenue Service has been successful in its efforts to challenge the deductibility of the gifts to non-wartime veterans groups, and we can not let this happen to us.

Only by maintaining our dates and the current status, which follow precisely the dates set by Congress to denote war time, can we remain safe from attack. I urge you to support the report of the Convention Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 5.

DELEGATE ROBERT PIERCE, California: Bob Pierce, Chino, Post 299, 25th District, Department of California, a duly elected Delegate to this Convention.

We have been at war since 1917, declared or undeclared, whether we like it or not. The fact remains our servicemen and women are putting their lives on the line since that time.

The Legion they tell me was made to die. I agree. When all the armors are turned into plows. When all the young men and women come home from across the sea, when all the men and women quit being killed and maimed serving their country then that is when I say The American Legion should die.

Everyone tells us that Congress will not accept a date change. Well, why don't we give them a chance to not accept it? The only way we are going to do that is to submit to them a resolution of date changes. I support this Resolution. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 6.

DELEGATE H. RENA CHAPLIN, Canada: Rena Chaplin from Canada. As a member of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments for a number of years, and after a recent study of the so-called Godwin report, I, as an individual, submit a few comments in support of the Committee's action.

First I would like to say I think I would like to have everyone here try to maintain a non-emotional consideration of the action we take today. I know its very often easy to be aroused. I am trying to be pragmatic.

When I joined The American Legion it was as a war time veterans organization, which I believed put us in a very special position with which the Supreme Court has agreed, and I don't believe that expanding the dates necessarily guarantees an increase in membership over the long run.

We have seen this in some Departments over the last twenty years. Service in peace is not service in war. Those who are in military or naval service should be accepted as members, in my opinion, only, and I stress only, if they have served in a Congressionally approved war time period.

I am not so optimistic as to believe that there will never be another war as we had in World War I and World War II and what we have called the great wars, including Korea and Vietnam, that there will never be a war such as this, and I hope to God there won't be, but should there be as always those who serve honorably during such periods of war should be considered for membership in our great organization.

I urge everyone here to consider the action that we are taking and support the Committee's recommendation which has been taken with great thought and energy. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 5.

DELEGATE JACK MUMMART SR., California: Commander, Jack Mummart, a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of California.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Jack, can I ask you a question? Are you and your Delegation Chairman ready to report that your Delegation is unanimous in this?

DELEGATE MUMMART: No, sir, we are not unanimous, that is why there has been two speakers.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: All right, if you are not unanimous then you are out of order, sir. You are not out of order, let me take that back, but if you are not unanimous, one has already spoken on the move to be against the Chair, so, you must speak in favor of the Chair. Are you ready to speak in favor of the Chair?

DELEGATE MUMMART: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: All right, go ahead.

DELEGATE MUMMART: Mr. Commander, my fellow Delegates. I think the question of tax status and the rest of this legal mumbo-jumbo is for the lawyers and the legislators. Let's instead for just a moment examine the real differences we are talking about.

The four great wars, to use the previous speaker's quote, were a major involvement by all of the military forces of this country. The periods that we talk about in this resolution today, and other periods such as some of you older members remember in the '30's in Shanghai when 400 Marines represented this country and got killed, or those Air Force pilots in the late '40's in that famous Berlin airlift, and since then the Army personnel in the DMZ zone, the quote unquote advisors in Central America, the personnel in the Persian Gulf, these are all a small percentage in proportion to the number of people we have in the military, a small percentage being actually involved in these battles.

That's what the lawyers and politicians are talking about. To give a tax break to an organization of war time veterans they expect it to be all of them not 2%. I don't particularly agree with the politicians' position but, my friends, when we stand in this hall we are preaching to the choir. Instead, in this, an election year, you go home and preach to the people who have the right to declare these various activities which have occurred as a condition of war and by their simple act they would free us of all our encumbrances and we would be able to happily welcome these other veterans. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 1.

DELEGATE EARL COCKE, JR., Georgia: Earl Cocke, a Delegate from Georgia. I move the previous question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Hearing no second I will move to Microphone 3.

DELEGATE CHESTER STELLAR, Ohio: Mr. Commander, Chester Stellar from the Department of Ohio. I rise to salute, with everyone in this hall, those great heroes of Beirut and Grenada, and I am concerned about them and I am concerned more about their widows and their orphans, and we must take care of those people. Our nation certainly owes them that, and we of The American Legion have the greatest ability to protect the benefits for those widows and those orphans if we maintain our eligibility dates the way they are now. We must protect those orphans and those widows because otherwise our conscious would not be clear.

Let us maintain the eligibility dates the way they are now so that we may approach the Congress of the United States as strictly a war time organization, then we will in able to carry out the wishes that everyone wants to provide. Let's not dilute our membership to endanger those benefits. Let's work to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars.

I have a daughter who is a Vietnam era veteran, and my son who was, and unfortunately my second son missed eligibility by less than 30 days. He understands that The American Legion will stand beside him in providing adequate material to defend this country. He understands that should he be injured The American Legion will provide the benefits to take care of him, and he wants it that way and he wants it as strong as possible.

He would dearly love to be a member of this organization and would under this constitutional amendment, but, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Commander and Delegates, I urge you let's keep The American Legion strong for the benefit of the heroes of Beirut and Grenada.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 2.

DELEGATE ED FARR, Nebraska: Mr. Commander, Ed Farr, a registered Delegate from the Department of Nebraska.

I would like to speak in favor of the Wisconsin Resolution. I am not the orator that many of these people that you have listened to in the past few minutes are and I will make mine real quick.

You know, this organization has spent millions of dollars over the years on the children's youth programs, Boys State, Law and Order, Junior Legion Baseball, just to name a few, and then as those youths grow up they go into the service of this country to protect you and I and everybody in this room, and now we are going to turn our backs on them because they shed their blood to protect us? I urge every man in this room to support the Wisconsin Resolution 198. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 3.

DELEGATE HERMAN J. HARRINGTON, New York: Herman J. Harrington of the Department of New York. Fellow Delegates I rise to speak in opposition to Resolution 198.

We of The American Legion are proud and should continue to be that our organization is composed entirely of war veterans, those who served in time of war or national emergency as declared by our Congress. In fact, my fellow Delegates, The American Legion is the only federally chartered organization of war veterans in this great nation of ours today.

The American Legion is indeed unique, my fellow Delegates, in that the Congress of these United States came to us when we were being formed in 1919 and suggested that we seek a federal charter thereby establishing a rapport with our Federal government that has stood us in good stead these past seventy years and has caused us to be the oldest federally chartered veterans organization, a status that has, because of the special and sacred nature of the service during time of war, entitled us to special rights to lobby Congress.

Presently The American Legion is indeed fortunate that we enjoy a tax free status, fortunate from a financial standpoint as well as one of prestige. To qualify for and retain we must have at least 90% of our members who are war veterans. Passage of this resolution would quickly dilute this 90% requirement and cause us to lose this tax exempt status.

Passage of this Resolution would also cause us then to be an organization of two classes of members, those who served in the time of war and those who served in peacetime; those who would then be entitled to one category of federal benefits as war time veterans and those who would be entitled to a second category of benefits for those who served in peacetime, thereby creating two distinct entities each concerned with their own special and different federal benefits.

The present war veterans are veterans because they rose to the need when our nation was indeed threatened. It was not a career choice. Let's not blur the issues with emotionalism but consider the facts of the matter at hand.

We do not dispute the very fine patriotic job our career military are doing today. They are to be held in high esteem and high regard, but let us not overlook the complete change in our war veterans organization that would result; because of the prestige, the respect, the charismatic aura of esteem that coats our nearly three million war veterans and permits us to be the most effective presence in the halls of Congress for our war time citizen soldiers. We ask you to support the decision of your Committee and vote no on this Resolution. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 5.

DELEGATE CHARLES J. BENSON, Washington: Mr. Commander, Chuck Benson, Department of Washington.

We as men and women have fought all over this world. We were not afraid of our enemies, and I am getting sick and tired of being told here today that we are afraid to stand up to our own Congress. I say we vote no on this and get on with the business of the day.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Microphone 4.

DELEGATE TIMOTHY P. CARMODY, New Jersey: Mr. Commander, Tim Carmody a Delegate from New Jersey. We urge the adoption of Wisconsin's Resolution 198.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Anything further on the question from the floor? Microphone 5.

DELEGATE JAMES O'HARA, California: Commander, Jim O'Hara, Post 731, Department of California. I move for the adoption.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Sorry, sir, you are out of order.

DELEGATE O'HARA: Correction?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You are out of order, sir.

DELEGATE O'HARA: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Two members of your Department has already spoken on the issue. Microphone 3.

. . . The question was called for.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: What is that?

. . . The question was called for.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Prior to the question I am going to give, under the rules of this Convention, Chairman Applebaum has the opportunity to take the microphone for the final speech, vote, whatever.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: All right, Mr. Commander and Delegates, I have listened to the oratory as you have, and I have been on the other end of it, because after several years of being on Constitutional amendments I have come to the conclusion that we are on the right track.

Now, I am going to ask, without elaborating further on the able arguments that you have heard in favor of the resolution, you to vote with your minds and not with your hearts.

Almost all of you do have what I have, maybe we belong to a second veterans organization, but the one that I am proudest of is The American Legion card because it shows and I earned it because of war time service. I was a civilian and I served as a soldier and I came back to the civilian life. I am not a professional soldier but I respect the professional soldier, and what I am saying to you is this, we have been in the last seventy years most effective to the people of the United States and before the Congress as a war veterans organization and we ought to stay that way and be that way and we can help other veterans organizations, veterans of other engagements and peacetime veterans and even the veterans who are overseas right now and enjoying, I understand, some of the benefits that we never had as war time soldiers because they are sitting there as peacetime soldiers and enjoying it, without me going further into it. So, I say again to you think with your minds. Your hearts are good. The Legion has always been generous and sympathetic to each and every form of endeavor that is placed before us. We like the professional soldier, we respect him, we know he is guarding us, but we can make a louder noise and we have a better voice in Congress, and we have had for the past seventy years, when we say to Congress we are an organization of war veterans only, and I thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: A motion for the previous question is still on the floor. Do I hear a second?

. . . Cries of "Second."

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: On the question all those in favor? Opposed? Wait a minute, so far I am running the Chair and I am trying to give everyone as fair a chance as I possibly can. If you ever feel at any time that I am not giving you your just due, then you will have a say, but I think you will agree that I am trying to handle it as fairly as possible, so, let's leave the Chair handle the decisions.

Someone asked for the previous question. At the time I didn't hear a second. Now, I put the previous question which was to close debate. That is all that motion was and you voted not to close debate. Microphone 3. Now, its O.K. All right, do you want me to call that one again? All those in favor of closing debate say aye; opposed. The ayes have it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now let's see. You want this to be called up again?

All those in favor of closing debate, aye; those opposed. The ayes have it.

And now, Mr. Chairman, we have a motion on the floor that is already there on the rejection of the Wisconsin amendment and it has been seconded.

On the question.

All those in favor of the rejection, aye; opposed no.

The ayes have it and I declare it a vote.

DELEGATE KAUTZER, NEC man Wisconsin: Mr. Chairman, Jerry Kautzer, NEC man from Wisconsin. I ask for a Roll Call vote.

France and Pennsylvania also asked for a Roll Call vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: So ordered.

MR. ROACH, NEC man, Missouri: Would you please clarify the voting, what the voting means, no and yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The motion on the floor is to reject. A yes vote will reject the Wisconsin amendment. Or better said, yes vote sustains the Chair. A no vote is against the Chair.

ROLL CALL

. . . NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE called the roll with the following results: Yes 2,406; No 751; and Abstentions 24.

That means the motion to reject is adopted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Now on Resolution No. 27. Is there a point of order on five? Go ahead, sir.

DELEGATE DICK PEDRO, New York: Mr. Commander, Dick Pedro, Delegate from New York. Is not Resolution No. 27 France, identical to 198 Wisconsin?

And therefore, should be ruled out of order?

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I will now check with the Chairman to see if it is identical.

You are correct, sir, Resolution 27 of France is identical to 198, therefore the set aside of 27 is out of order.

Resolution No. 165 of Pennsylvania.

I call on the Chairman to read the resolution.

You have a question, first.

You have a question on Microphone 4?

DELEGATE CONLEY, Pennsylvania: Mr. Chairman, due to the fact that we felt we gave our arguments on behalf of Wisconsin's, and due to the fact that everybody expressed that opinion in that vote, we would like to just go ahead and move and take the recommendations of the Chairman and save the time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you, sir.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: I now move for the adoption of the complete report.

. . . The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Motion has been made and seconded. On the question. All those in favor, aye; those opposed no. The ayes have it, and I declare the report of the Constitutional Amendments Committee have been adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Announcements by Robert Spanogle.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: A Western Caucus will meet following the recess of the Convention for this day, and I would request that this main microphone would remain open for that caucus.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Ladies and Gentlemen, our organization has a long tradition of hearing candidates for President every four years.

The Legion remains non-partisan and non-political.

We listen to each candidate, and then as proud Americans, we go to the polls in November, and cast our ballot and fulfill our duty as citizens of this great nation.

Please make a special effort to arrive here tomorrow morning and welcome a man who served in the United States Army, just after the Korean War, a man who attended Boys State in 1950, a fellow veteran, who aspires to the highest office in this land.

And I know you will be here to listen to his vision for the next four years.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: The opening for tomorrow we have set at 8:30, but Governor Dukakis has asked to speak to us at 9:00, so that gives us a half an hour from the regular time scheduled, so that gives us a half an hour of our regular time to schedule whatever we wish to.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Join with me in a salute to the Flag of the United States of America.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Convention will stand in recess until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

. . . At 3:00 p.m., the Convention recessed, to reconvene the following morning, September 8, 1988, at 9:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS

Thursday Session, September 8, 1988

. . . The Convention was called to order by National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts at 8:55 a.m., EDT

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Convention will come to order.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, will you escort the distinguished guest, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts together with Past National Commander Foley.

. . . Standing applause, as the distinguished guest, the Honorable Michael S. Dukakis, Governor of Massachusetts was escorted to the podium.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Colors of the United States of America being in place, the Delegates will join me in a hand salute.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I call on the Reverend Jerry Salveson of North Dakota for the invocation.

INVOCATION

Rev. Jerry Salveson, National Chaplain

God, our Father, Commander of the Universe, we pause this morning to give You thanks for all those who have gone before us and given so much to create and sustain these United States of America.

We give You thanks also for our forbearers who have gone before us to create and sustain this American Legion.

We ask now Your wisdom and guidance for those who continue to lead this nation and this American Legion, that we may serve You and serve our fellow man, to the very best of our ability, and to Your honor and glory, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Please remain standing, and all American Legionnaires, uncover and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

. . . The Delegation stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Convention is now in session.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am especially pleased to introduce our next guest to you. He is a respected leader and educator, and he is the Chief Executive of my home state, the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

He is an Army veteran who served in Korea in the mid-1950s, assigned to the Support Group at the United Nations Commander Delegation to the Military Armistice Commission in South Korea.

In 1959, while still a law student, he was elected a Town Meeting Member in Brookline, Massachusetts. In 1962, he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and became a recognized expert in insurance reform, as well as an effective, respected State Legislator.

We would like to feel he got his start and his interest in State Legislation due to the fact that he is also a graduate of American Legion Boys State.

He was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1975, and was re-elected in 1982 and 1986. I am honored to present to you today, someone that I know quite well, the Democratic Party's nominee for President of the United States, the Honorable Michael S. Dukakis.

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
Governor of Massachusetts, Democratic Nominee for President

Thank you all very much, and thank you, Jake. It is great to be here.

Somehow, many years ago, I had a sense that Jake Comer would be here as the National Commander of The American Legion. What I didn't know then, was that I would be here as the Governor of Jake's State, and as the Democratic nominee for the Presidency of the United States. And this is a very special honor and privilege for me as Chief Executive of Jake's home state.

My thanks to the National Executive Committee, to the Delegates to the Convention of the Legion, and of your Auxiliaries. Jake, to your wife, Eileen, who I know has traveled up and down and across this nation with you.

They have spent 27 days at home over the course of the past year, and to the "Comer Clan", which is here, and especially to the Delegates from the Department of Massachusetts and its Commander, Leon Bernier, I am delighted to be here with them, and join in this Convention with them.

My friends, Massachusetts has known Jake Comer just a little longer than many of you who are members of The Legion. We are very proud of him and veterans like Butch Kelly, and John Wrenn, and John Mulkern, and Eddie Norcott, who joined forces with Jake, to ensure that our veterans received services, where the VA had none, or had stopped short.

I have known Jake Comer since my freshman days in the Massachusetts legislature. He was there then fighting for veterans, and also as all 3 million members of The American Legion and as your Auxiliary know, Jake Comer gets things done.

More particularly, we are proud of his leadership and his initiative in creating that Child Welfare Foundation, to which you contributed, following up on such good work that he has done with the use of our state.

Presentation

And so Jake, today, as your Governor, and at the conclusion of this important commendation of what has been a great year for you and for The Legion, I am proud to present you with the Governor's Outstanding Achievement Award, a symbol of your service to your fellow veterans.

It is a statue of Father Flanagan's boys, with the inscription on it that reflects the philosophy that you have brought to your work, "He is not heavy, Father, he is my brother."

Congratulations, Jake Comer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Governor, and may I say, a special thanks to you for this presentation. And I accept this in behalf of all the members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, the Eight and Forty, the Twenty and Four, and all organizations dedicated to God, Country and Family. Thank you.

GOVERNOR DUKAKIS: As Jake told you, during the mid-1950s I spent 16 months as a G.I. in the small South Korean village of Monsani about seven miles from the DMZ, a job my country asked me to do which was not heroic.

My memories are not of combat missions, but of some lonely guard patrols, cold nights and Army food, which I have to say, was pretty good when I was there.

The friendships made of officers that saluted, and of thoughts of my family back home, but I also remember the pride that I felt to be an American soldier on duty for America in a land where the hunger for democracy was beginning to grow, and where the strength of America had been felt in freedom's behalf.

I and those I served didn't ask for much in the way of material comforts. We had a responsibility to serve, and we were proud to meet that responsibility.

All we wanted, and all we expected was to be well trained, to have weapons that worked, a mission that we understood, and to know that we were being remembered in the thoughts and prayers of those back home.

That is not a lot to ask for. But for those in the front line, it makes all the difference in the world, and it is a lesson that I will never forget.

It is a lesson that is especially important in this election year, for my friends the job of defending freedom is not a Republican job, or a Democratic job. It is a responsibility we have as Americans.

It is a price we pay to protect and defend our ideals, and it is a price we have always been willing to pay.

Another great Democratic President, Harry Truman, said 28 years ago, that our great strength is the loyalty and the fellowship of a free people. We pull together when we are in trouble, and we do it by our own choice, not out of fear, but out of love for the great values of our American life.

It is that love for America that has made us strong, that has caused millions of men and women to answer their nation's call to military service.

And it is that love for America that will not let us rest, that will keep us looking ahead, that will keep us preparing and building for the future, that will keep us working to keep America strong, and to make America better.

Members of The American Legion are united in their shared experiences of the past, by your service as aviators, sailors, infantrymen, marines, in answer to your country's call.

It is the past that brings you together, but it is the future that must be on all of our minds.

I want to talk to you about the future and about the obligations not of the foot soldier that I once was, but of the Commander-In-Chief of the United States of America. As all of you know, under our Constitution, the first obligation of a President as Commander-In-Chief, is to secure and assure our nation's security. It is an obligation, my friends I take very, very, very seriously.

Today America is powerful and we are well defended, but we will not maintain our leadership in the world if we rest here. We can not rest here because we know that military might can not be sustained without economic might, and we can not build a strong national defense on a mountain of debt, that we can not build a strong national defense without a foundation of good schools and productive factories and world class technology. It is essential if America is to be number one and to stay number one on the battlefield and in the workplace, a foundation solid enough to defend America and to make America grow, a foundation broad enough to protect our interests and to extend a helping hand to those who struggle for freedom and for opportunity around the world.

We can not rest here because the Soviet military forces continue to be a threat to our security and to the security of our friends and allies. They have more than 10,000 strategic nuclear weapons and a powerful army in Europe, and yet today, as all of us know, we may have the best opportunity of our lifetimes to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

The present treaty to limit nuclear missiles in Europe was an important announcement, and I salute President Reagan for it, but it is not a resting place. We must build on that treaty to make the world a safer place for our children and our way of life. We can not rest here because we must strengthen our conventional forces and give the men and women of our armed forces who we ask to defend us, the equipment, the training and the support they need to carry out that defense. So, we have got to strengthen our conventional forces as the Warsaw Pact is strengthening theirs, and we must respond to the threat that new missile technology poses to our allies around the world, especially in Israel and the Middle East.

We can not rest here because today after eight years and two trillion dollars we still don't have an anti-tank weapon that can stop modern Soviet tanks. We have serious shortages in ammunition and spare parts and maintenance. We see billions being spent on weapons that don't do what they are designed to do, and, my friends, we see too many defense dollars slipping into the pockets of wheeler-dealers and consultants. Every time that happens it hurts not only our taxpayer, but the men and women of our armed forces who are risking their lives in the defense of freedom around the world.

We have got to have an effective nuclear deterrent, we have got to strengthen and modernize our conventional forces, and we have got to manage the Pentagon to get a dollars worth of security for every defense dollar we spend.

And if the questionarises, how strong do we have to be, the answer I think can be found in the Congressional debate that took place almost 200 years ago during the Presidency of George Washington. Congress at that time asked General Washington whether he could support an amendment to limit the size of American military forces to 3,000, and Washington said, yes, provided the Congress would adopt another amendment limiting the size of the invading army to 2,000.

How strong do American forces have to be? Strong enough to defend America's interests, strong enough to meet our treaty commitments, strong enough to crack down on terrorism with force if necessary. Strong enough, my friends, not just to fight but to win the war against drugs. Strong enough to convince any potential adversary that they have nothing to gain and everything to lose by attacking the United States or our allies or our friends, that's how strong. And that is what Lloyd Bentsen and I are going to be working for from the day we take office on January 20, 1989.

But, as all of you know, we have another obligation. We have a responsibility to those who have borne the burden of battles past, to the veterans who have kept the torch of freedom burning for over 200 years. When I was called and when you were called to serve our country, we didn't negotiate the cost of our services, we didn't set a price on our commitment to freedom, we served with pride, and will keep that pride with us for as long as we live. That's why there is something wrong when veterans who should be our most honored citizens don't receive the respect and the dignity that they have earned.

Today we see patients at VA hospitals in this country waiting as long as eight hours to get a prescription filled or as long as eight months just to get in the door of the outpatient clinic. We see thousands of beds in the VA hospitals being closed down while the need for those beds is increasing. My friends, there is something very, very wrong when veterans are treated that way.

What can we be thinking of? One out of every four Americans without a job today is a veteran, that is unacceptable, and one out of every three homeless people in this country is a veteran. Those who slept in the foxholes a decade or two ago are now sleeping in streets and on sidewalks in the very cities and hometowns that they risked their lives to protect. We have got to do better than that, we have got to do better than that. And, my friends, beginning on January 20th, we will do better than that.

In my own state and Jake's, I am proud to say that while the current Administration was cutting support forhousing by 70% we launched the first program in the nation to find and help homeless veterans.

While they were trying to close veterans field offices and counseling centers we were opening them and creating special outreach centers to reach the veterans of all wars. While they were trying to cut veterans health care benefits and freeze out the benefits for disabled veterans, we were boosting state contributions to veterans housing and to medical needs by 40%.

My friends, my opponent in this election is a patriotic man who served his country well in time of war. I do not question his love for this country, but there are days, and this is one of them, when I question his priorities. Today he is asking us to give a five year $28 billion dollar tax break to Americans making $200,000 a year or more. That is an average of $30,000 each to the wealthiest and most privileged among us, but a few years ago he cast the deciding vote in the Senate to cut VA health care benefits by $2 billion dollars and to eliminate cost of living increases to disabled veterans. What kind of priorities are those? What kind of priorities are those, a tax cut for those who have it made, a cut in income for those who lost a leg at Normandy or were blinded at Inchon or had an arm torn off at Kaesong? We can do better than that. Lloyd Bentsen and I are going to do better than that.

We are going to work with Congress and with citizens all across this country to build a healthy and strong and growing economy that will help Americans, including veterans, to get the opportunities and the good jobs that they so badly want and so richly deserve. We are going to invest in job training and lifelong education that will prepare all Americans, including veterans, to take on and beat our foreign competition.

We are going to create a national partnership for affordable housing, and this man knows about affordable housing, that is his job, that is his profession, and he is very good at it. We are going to ask Jake Comer and people like him all across the country to work and create that partnership that will help all Americans, including veterans, to find decent and affordable places to live, and, my friends, we are going to end homelessness in the United States of America.

We are going to have a top notch veterans health care system, because we know it is important, not only for our veterans, but for America as well. For decades, as all of you know, the VA has led the way to spectacular breakthroughs in medical research. Look at the Nobel prizewinners for medicine. Look at William Oldendorf, a pioneer in developing the CAT Scan. Look at Edward Freeze, a leader in the research on hypertension, look at the thousands of VA hospital physicans in cities and towns all across this nation who have honored their profession and their country by caring for wounded, the comatose, the homeless, the jobless. Doctors who, like my father, believe that a doctor's first responsibility isn't to look at your checkbook it is to look at you.

The veterans of this country gave first class service to this country, and these deserve first class treatment from their country. They deserve a place at the table, and in my Administration, they are going to have one.

They served America's continuing commitment to bring home our POWs from Vietnam and Korea. They deserve a President who will keep America strong, big and powerful at home, and in my Administration, they are going to have one.

They deserve a Vice-President, my friends, who has stood with our veterans on the floor of the United States Senate, year in, year out and in my Administration, they are going to have one, named Lloyd Bentsen.

Because, my friends, America isn't just a place, it is not just a piece of land or just another country, it is the noblest experiment ever undertaken on this planet. It is a symbol of what we human beings can do when we understand and meet the obligations that we have to each other, and to this country.

When we are honored and learn from the past, and when we prepare as we must every day and every week to build, we must build a future where America is strong, where America is leading the way, where America is number one.

And Jake, if you allow me to use one of your famous sayings, one of your favorite sayings here in Louisville, during the closing hours of your stewardship of The American Legion, I want you to know that I will always keep in mind your words, "When we hear, we forget; when we see, we remember; but when we do, we understand."

Thank you all very, very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I want to thank you very much, Governor. I know the men and women of The American Legion will consider your words carefully when November rolls around.

* * *

PRESENTATION OF THE FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Americans have a freedom that sometimes we take for granted. We read our evening newspaper, we watch the evening news on television, we listen to news on radio. America's news media is free to report everything possible. There are other countries, like Nicaragua, where the press is handcuffed, shut down, censored, and unable to do the job you and I expect of the media.

Because we have a free press The American Legion has given the Fourth Estate Award to one person or media company each year for 31 years. This award recognizes excellence in journalistic achievement.

This year I am proud to present the 1988 Fourth Estate Award to a reporter for the Florida Today newspaper. The paper covers Brevard County. This reporter read accounts of the problems of atomic veterans and wanted to find out more about the store and especially how it might be affecting the men and women who live in his county.

He spent weeks talking with veterans, learning of their successes, and failures. He and his paper were able to bring these veterans together to discuss common problems. His research and writing resulted in a multi-part series "Atomic Vets: Remembering Ground Zero." The impact of his series has been felt both regionally and nationally.

It is my distinct honor to present to you the winner of The American Legion Fourth Estate Award for 1988, Billy Cox, of the Florida Today newspaper.

BILLY COX
Newspaper Reporter for the Florida TODAY Newspaper

This is a real honor for me. I am not a public speaker so I will just make a few remarks.

As a member of the high school class of 1972, I am a direct beneficiary of some of your highest aspirations. Those who turned 18 in 1972 were the first of a generation who never had to make a conscious decision about whether or not to go to war. The draft was abolished that year. America was pulling out of Vietnam. Eighteen year olds were given the right to vote for the first time, and the architect of this environment, Richard Nixon, was the peace candidate.

Today in another election year we are confronted with candidates for high office stressing the doctrine of peace through strength. I am reminded of the words of President Truman who told another generation about peace through strength, a generation of young people training for the horrors of nuclear war. The President said then, "Let us keep our sense of proportion in the matter of the radioactive fallout. Of course, we want to keep the fallout in our tests to an absolute minimum, but the dangers that might occur from fallout involve a small sacrifice when compared to the infinitely greater evil of the use of nuclear bombs in war."

Last year I talked to a large number of men and women who made that small sacrifice. For many of them, atomic maneuvers represented a mere asterisk in their military careers. For others, such as their widows attested, it was the end of the line, and for others the issue was the confusing field of genetics.

These people served their country proudly. They went when they were called. They did not question the tenets of our defense policy, yet too often they told stories of confusion, of anger, of distrust, of a government bureaucracy which responded to their pleas for help with either indifference or contempt. It forced some of them into creative responses such as an atomic widow in New Port Ritchey who had to send her husband's remains out of the country for independent analysis which then uncovered traces of the plutonium 238, seventy-four times higher than the official dose.

Before I left for the Convention, I got a call from an atomic veteran who was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne in 1952. He got a call during that era for an operation called tumblersnapper in the Nevada desert. He was at ground zero and described what he saw, the butchered animals, the remains of boomtowns, wrecked vehicles, he had just gotten a glimpse of the future. Today he has sores on his arms and on other parts of his body and he worries about the health of his four children.

I asked him if there was anything, any message he would like for me to deliver to The American Legion. He gave me what I feel is an typical reply, because most of these veterans never ask for anything at all, but it seemed to make sense to me. Fred said, "Ask them if they would be interested in pushing to get medals for the atomic veterans. It would mean a whole lot to me personally to know what I have gone through actually meant something."

Well, a quarter of a million men made what President Truman called that small sacrifice, so a medal seems like a small thing to ask. Thank you very much.

. . . National Commander Comer presented Billy Cox an award entitled, "The American Legion 1988 Fourth Estate Award for Distinguished Public Service in the Field of Journalism is presented to Billy Cox, Florida, today for his series of articles "Atomic Vets: Remembering Ground Zero" presented at the 70th National Convention, September 8, 1988, Louisville, Kentucky.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I was proud to present that to Billy Cox and his story was outstanding. It was signed by myself as National Commander, and Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, and Douglas W. Henley, Public Relations Commission Chairman. We hope this award will signal to you and your fellow journalists that America's veterans do appreciate your professionalism and dedicated effort.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Our next guest is a man who treasures the security of this nation dearly. For more than 40 years his work has involved science at all levels that can be devastating, or beneficial to all mankind. From the early days of the Manhattan Project our guest has worked with the development of this nation's nuclear capability both in weapons and in the generation of power.

It has been said that the western world perhaps owes its very existence today to this man who saw the Soviet Union's efforts to perfect a hydrogen bomb, spearheaded the technology development process for the United States, and then worked to politically see the nuclear policy implemented.

He is a member of the White House Science Council and is a primary player in the Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy movement. He is also the author of a new book, "Better a Shield than a Sword."

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor to present to you a noted physicist, Dr. Edward Teller.

DR. EDWARD TELLER, PHYSICIST

Member, White House Science Council and Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy

It is an honor and a very great pleasure to be with you here today, with you who have done so much for the safety of this wonderful country, and indeed it is wonderful, and today after the events that we just witnessed we know that this country is playing a special role in today's world, in today's age, the age of technology.

Your job was defense, my job was, and my job remains, knowledge, and I am here to tell you that defense needs knowledge and knowledge needs detailed understanding.

I want to start with a point of which today there is no difference in this country and there can be no difference in this country, technology, knowledge has made the world smaller. We are all members of an interacting brotherhood of mankind, and what happens at the other end of the world is today not far from us. We know about this. With the speed of light on our television screens we know and we should understand.

This country has a special place, because it is one that everyone with whatever origin, Greek or Hungarian, or Vietnamese, if he wants to take refuge here has the same chance. It is a world, a small world, that is a picture of the big world that is to come.

Now, I will not talk to you about generalities, I want to talk to you about specifics, about my knowledge in which you may be interested. My knowledge of a big movement in which I participated from its inception.

In all my adult life in the 60 of the 80 years which I lived, in the 60 years in which I was working, and I am speaking to you about atomic energy, about understanding, about the care we have to take in putting this understanding into actual practice, and specifically I want to talk to you about nuclear reactors, an important project, atomic energy for peace and weapons. Atomic energy for defense.

I have worked on the former from the very beginning in Los Alamos and I worked on the safety of nuclear reactors, being the Chairman of the world's first Reactor Safety Committee in 1948.

Now, it is agreed that indeed all these questions are inseparable. Nuclear reactors are needed throughout the world as a safe, yes, safe form of energy and a clean form of energy. In the 1950's and the 1960's the United States was number one in this field. Today the French derive 70% of their valuable electrical power from nuclear sources, the United States less than 20%.

I want to tell you of a specific situation about two reactors judged completely safe by a properly bi-partisan committee of the highest authority. They have been made idle. They cost $10 billion dollars, the Seabrook and the Shoreham reactors, because of the decision of two governors, which was day before yesterday held illegal by the Court of Appeals.

They can be made safe in spite of the fact that the Soviet Union did operate an unsafe reactor which hurt in its accident as many people as a major airplane accident.

That is the peaceful nuclear question put into proportion, and this is an important consideration to the American economy to handle these questions in a rational, legal and not an emotional and political manner,

Now, from an important technical point I want to proceed to a vital technical point, to a point concerning our defense, the defense of America, the future of a safe and peaceful world.

In your magazine, in The American Legion's Magazine, you ask about the Strategic Defense Initiative, an incipient reality, not a fantasy in this country. A huge enterprise in the Soviet Union. Is it enough to spend $3 billion dollars on it per year? Would George Washington say it would be enough if the Soviet Union would limit its expenditure to $2 billion dollars?

We know that the Soviets who have been horribly hurt in the second world war are spending more than ten times on defense, on active practical defense, not a maze, not a fantasy, but a reality. At least ten times more than we do.

This you probably have heard before but now I want to tell you something that I believe many of you do not know. Is this defense, defense against a nuclear attack? What is it? Its essence, as announced by our Commander-In-Chief, is clearly defense against the sudden attack that might hit almost any country in a nuclear way or in a non-nuclear way. Today the United States is planning to return not only itself but working with its allies, the British, the West Germans, the Israelis, the Italians and Japanese in signed agreements for the common defense. In the case of the Israelis there is a national force of rockets zeroed in on them, rockets delivered by the Soviet Union on the soil of Syria a hundred miles away. We are talking about defense against high technology and it is not a future defense.

In the specific case of Israel our SDI Agreement which we strongly underwrite and participate in, is planned for a deployment in approximately three years. We are talking about defense against sudden attacks.

Is it possible? How is it possible? I want to tell you that more than five years ago in March, 1983 when the President asked the question, "Isn't it better to save lives than to avenge them?" I was thanking God, at last in the technological age we are turning technology toward defense in a way that technology can be used. Not for complete safety, that never can exist as you well know, but to make the job of an aggressor more difficult, to deter aggression and to win peace. Peace not for us in the United States but peace for everybody.

And this is the plan. I was delighted and at the same time I was fearful because I thought that President Reagan promised too much. He told us then and subsequently, "defense, make it non-nuclear."

The choice is not between nuclear and conventional the choice is between high technology and obsolete systems, and I believe in high technology, but I wonder is the President asking too much?

Here he says we have a possibility to package energy in a light object, an object with which we can do almost anything, place it almost anywhere at the appropriate time, we will probably need that for defense. In the inner councils I have again and again said those who have made the nuclear option before it is thoroughly examined. Following the President's suggestion more than 90% of the Strategic Defense Initiative was spent on non-nuclear defense and something remarkable happened. Of course, I worked on it, we all worked on it.

In the last two or three years it became more and more clear that President Reagan was right, that I was too timid, that we can do the job in a non-nuclear way. Perhaps other methods will be needed later on remains important and everybody recognizes it.

But there are complete indications, very complete, and I will mention a few of them to you very clearly and completely. Non-nuclear defense is possible. Defense by small units intelligently deployed can stop the situation which prevails today in which America today is defenseless even from a single attacking warhead. This is something we can not tolerate. This is something that our Administration tried to change, and recently last February Senator Nunn said, "Yes, we must try to defend ourselves against at least a small accidental attack." Not just theoretically by deployment in actual practice. I am telling you that this is possible, and I will tell you some of the very important, very simple reasons why I firmly believe that. One reason is a point of recent day's history, the Soviet Union attacks a small country on its border, Afghanistan. They won, they conquered, but resistance by the Afghanistans lasted. It was a terrible war far away in this small world. There are no places which are far away. A war with three million refugees, and, as some people believe, even a million and a half casualties. Ten percent of the population hurt, 20% fled.

Two years ago we started to deliver stinger missiles, defensive weapons of high accuracy against low flying aircraft, which the Soviets needed to suppress resistance, and these missiles were in the hands of the heroic resisters. Ninety percent efficient. Soviet aggression was defeated not many miles from the Soviet border by accuracy, by miniaturization, by computing skills where we could package the needed technology into small units, something where are industry continues to be the leader of the world.

This is an example and this is a reason. Many others in our universities, in our excellent universities, are competing with us. Half of the advanced engineering students are foreigners. I am not protesting, I am a foreigner. Many of these people will stay here, and those who will leave will carry along around the world our ideas.

We are building a new world in which technology and peace and cooperation will all exist together.

How do we do it? We have the accuracy to shoot an armed helicopter or a low flying aircraft ready to bomb the resisters and even the villages and children, that is a relatively easy task, but the same methods are being now applied to make small and effective units by good electronics, miniaturization and computers. To hit a bullet with a bullet we can have accuracy, we do not need Big Bens, and President Reagan's vision of a non-nuclear defense is rapidly maturing.

There is one question that remains. How much will it cost? Peace is priceless, freedom is priceless. But the dollars, give us an indication. Is the job of the defender easier or of the aggressor?

And here is a remaining huge question, what will this cost, a really good defense, $30 billion or $3 trillion which the objectors propose. I will tell you the complete truth, nobody knows and nobody will know until we have a small deployment.

I want to be complete, not because I believe that is precisely right but because I want to make an example of what can be done. In Grand Forks, North Dakota, where we have started to deploy a defensive system, we could deploy small systems even within the Treaty so as to make sure that we have some defense and so as to get reliable estimates of how much a substantial defense will cost, and for that we need bi-partisan support. It is my job to know, it is your job to defend. It is our job to elect the right people on every level next November.

And I want to conclude with a simple advise. We need bi-partisan politics strongly supporting defense which will not kill people but will allow that all people in this country and everywhere else should be defended, and whoever will not support strategic defense, whoever will remain ignorant about the simple and real possibilities that defense offers, he is not asked to make the big decisions, and the one who in his first speech says, "I will look to the defense of the United States," he is the right man. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Doctor, for that strong message. I am sure we will all be listening.

* * *

COMMUNICATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Prior to proceeding, I would like to read to you a letter which I received in my hotel room this morning:

"Dear Jake: I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate you on a tremendous year of service as the National Commander of The American Legion. The generous support of Kids & Company Together For Safety through The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation exemplifies The American Legion commitment to fine programs and services for children.

"Kids & Company curriculum will offer us an opportunity to educate an entire generation of children and their parents regarding the issue of child safety.

"In addition to your leadership role as National Commander of The American Legion, I would like to commend you for your own personal commitment as an advocate for America's children. The local advisory board of the Adam Walsh Children Research Center, Boston office is one of the many recipients of your participation and support.

"Please extend my greetings to all who are attending the 70th Annual American Legion Conference. Warmest personal regards.

"/s/ John Walsh, President"

Many of you remember John Walsh, who has addressed us in the past, the father of Adam Walsh from Florida, who was killed, then went on to form the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center. Thank you very much.

* * *

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I believe this is an opportune time, because as of the close of business on Wednesday, September 7, 1988, I told you I would bring you an update on Thursday.

The total of contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation stood at $1,145,961.03.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: For years, The American Legion has maintained the vigil with families of men who are unaccounted for from Vietnam and Korea. Our organization has cooperated in countless ways with the U.S. government in an effort to put to an end the uncertainty and pain.

Our next guest is a man who shares our concern. He is here to bring us up to date on the efforts to resolve the question of our missing comrades.

A man who works for him, Lt. Col. Johnie Webb Jr. wanted to speak with us. Today he is enroute to Hanoi to meet with the Vietnamese to discuss the issue again. His trip underscores the government's effort at the highest level and proves that nothing has been abandoned.

Our government shares our concern, and the concern of families and loved ones who still want to know the fate of their soldier, sailor, airman, or marine.

When I visited Honolulu, we were at the Casualty Center. I thought it was an opportunity for what I witnessed to invite these individuals here, so you could understand as I did, first-hand, the cooperation and bring you up to date, because it is such an important issue to all of us. And I know, and I feel your concern.

So, please welcome to Louisville, and our 70th National Convention, the Director of Casualty and Memorial Affairs for the Department of the Army, Colonel M.A. Hoherz.

COLONEL M.A. HOHERZ
Director, Casualty and Memorial Affairs
Department of the Army

Good morning. I am here to stand in for an individual who works for me, Johnie Webb. He runs the Central Identification Lab in Hawaii, which is a forensic laboratory who has as its mission identifying the American dead from all past wars.

And Johnie as Mr. Comer said, is on his way to Vietnam for talks with the Vietnam government through this weekend, which we hope will lead us to have search and recovery teams at the crash sites in Vietnam and incident sites, and hopefully come to a more complete accounting of our American missing.

We only had one excavation in Hanoi thus far, that was a B-52 site outside of Hanoi, two or three years ago. It was in a very marshy area, and unfortunately, we were not able to uncover any remains. That is why we are so looking forward to this opportunity to these talks this weekend, hopefully to get back in there, and search for Americans.

Let me go back and give you a little history of where we have been on the POW issue in Vietnam, also from Korea, and also from World War II.

In 1973, the Vietnamese released 591 Americans. When they did that, they also gave us the cooperation, and said they would give us cooperation in a total accounting for all the American missing.

That, as you well know has not happened.

As of today there are 2,393 still missing.

This figure includes, not only those that were killed in action, where we know for sure that they died, but their bodies were not able to be recovered. It also includes those that are missing, those that were POWs that were detained. We know they are POWs. But we have never been given the remains back.

All of our Americans have been put through a presumed finding of death. That all happened by the late 1970's, with the exception of one symbolic issue and that was Air Force Colonel Charles Shelton. The Secretary of the Air Force decided to keep at least one POW on the books in POW status, to prove that the Americans are not closing the issue.

The history of our relations with the Vietnamese and the Laotians on the issue of finding our missing Americans has been one of just a lot of talk, a lot of rhetoric, but not much action.

We are at least cautiously optimistic now that we can come to a complete and full agreement.

But however, in 1985, the Vietnamese said, they were going to embark on a two-year program, and at the end of that two years, there would be an complete as possible accounting. That of course did not happen.

In fact, all talks that we had with them broke down in such a stalemate that last August, President Reagan appointed former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Jack Vessey, as a Special Presidential Emissary to Vietnam, to try to resolve this issue, plus Amerasians, plus Vietnamese friends that were left over there that are in re-education camps.

Since August of last year, when General Vessey met with the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, we have had six technical meetings with them, one every month. Our seventh month, like I say, begins this weekend.

During that period of time, they have turned over in five separate turnovers, they have turned over 77 sets of remains.

Now of those 77 sets of remains, we have been able to positively identify 18; 9 more are in the process.

And frankly, we think of the 50 remaining, many of those are probably Southeast Asian Mongoloid remains.

Now we have asked the Vietnamese, any time they think they have an American, to please give us those remains, and we can look, because we do have some American's of Asian descent that are missing from the Vietnam war, and we want to check it out.

However, we do feel that they're playing some politics with us by turning over numbers of remains, counting the numbers, when in fact, we know that they are not American.

In July, the Vietnamese came back to us and said they would take what we call compelling discrepancies and help us try to resolve those. Now compelling discrepancy cases are ones in which we know that an individual was captured, because we have pictures of them on the ground. The Vietnamese ran all kinds of photographs of captured Americans, or an individual flyer, his plane went down in an area which was densely populated, and so we know that somebody must know what happened to that individual. Or in the case of a base camp, a special forces camp that was overrun. In other words, somebody should know what happened to our captured Americans.

There are at least 224 incidents that come into this compelling discrepancy category.

The Vietnamese, in their latest offer of July, that hopefully will be consummated this weekend, promised to take us to at least 70 of those sites to be able to look and talk to individuals at those sites, and be able to come across and find out if we can make a more complete accounting.

Our dealings with Laos have been a little bit different. As you know, we of course do not have diplomatic relations with Vietnam. We do have diplomatic relations with Laos. We have had three excavations in Laos. In February of '85, we went in, and excavated a C-31 gun ship. We had another C-31 gun ship in February of '86, and most recently in May of '88, we excavated a Mohawk.

Back to the first gunship site. You have got to understand, this is an aircraft that had 15 people on board that was hit, exploded into the ground, caught fire, all the ordnance on it burned, and it burned for 24 hours.

Two individuals had been able to parachute out and were picked up the next day by a Airforce helicopter.

However, the 13 that were missing, 14 years later, we go in, and we are allowed to excavate the site. We were able to make 11 identifications out of the total of 13. That just shows you how good the folks are who work for you in the laboratory in Hawaii.

In the next year, a C-13, there were a total of 14 missing in that crew, and we were able to make 9 positive identifications. We have 5 more which we could not and did not have sufficient remains to make a positive ID.

We come to Cambodia, or Campuchea as it is now called. The issue there is once again, no diplomatic relations with the Cambodians.

The Cambodians came to us and said, how many missing Americans do you have in Cambodia? We said the figure is 82. And they then came up with a press announcement and said they had 80 sets of remains and we had never asked them for them. This of course was hogwash. We told them you have 80 sets of remains, you can either turn them over to us or to any neutral party who can turn them over to us.

The important part, is that we still hold Vietnam responsible for the area in which these Americans were lost under Vietnam, and in fact, it remains under Vietnam control today.

Now we are just not trying to identify the missing from the Vietnam War.

In the Korean War, we still have 8,177 Americans missing from that war. Six thousand of which are missing in North Korea. We have gone to the Koreans many times and asked for assistance as was decided in the UN Armistice Agreements in recovering our remains of our dead from the Korean War.

We have always been rebuffed by the Koreans. What they are holding out for are government-to-government negotiations. The determination has been made we would not since we do not have relations with the North Koreans, we will not have government-to-government talks. We will do everything through the UN Armistice Commission.

In fact, Korea has now said, the North Koreans said, they have two sets of remains of Americans, the names that they gave us check out with unaccounted for Americans from the Korean War, however, they have refused to give them to us. They are waiting for a better political deal.

If we could get into North Korea, we know where the POW camps and sites were. We would go to that area immediately. We know where the graveyards in North Korea are, and we know where to excavate, however, we have had no cooperation from the North Koreans.

Going back to World War II, in the past six years, we have been on excavation for World War II remains primarily in New Guinea. There have been 300 crash sites of aircraft yet undiscovered in New Guinea. We have found 14 of those, and have been able to identify 30 Americans that were missing airmen from World War II.

We have also been to Poluy, to Okinawa, to Korea, to the Aleutians, to Guadal Canal, and in fact, we just had a case the other day where a team of botanists were up on one of the islands in the Aleutians, and came across a set of remains of a soldier that was up there during World War II, and apparently had gotten away from his unit and got caught in the elements, and probably froze to death.

We now have his remains in the laboratory doing a complete identification on him.

As you know from World War II, we have almost 79,000 Americans still missing from that war, but of course, many of those are missing due to ships downings or planes over water, and that again is also part of the 8,177 still unaccounted for from Korea and the almost 2,400 unaccounted for in Vietnam. Many of those, we know, we will never recover.

During World War II, we had access to all the battlefields after war, which of course, we do not have in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Just to show you that we have never closed the books, some of you, particularly from American Legion Post in New York state will remember that at the end of the June, we had a repatriation ceremony, where we repatriated to the United States from Canada, 28 sets of remains of soldiers who died during the Niagra Campaign of the War of 1812. There was a Canadian in Fort Erie, Canada right across from Buffalo who was excavating to build a house, digging a basement, and he came upon what appeared to be a gravesite. That was expanded, and we turned up 28 sets of United States soldiers' remains, who were either killed in the war, or died very shortly thereafter from their wounds.

The Canadian government was very helpful to us. Great cooperation with us, and like I said, we had a repatriation ceremony on the 30th of June.

It would just be great if all countries of the world, the Communist countries and the non-Communist would give us the same humanitarian effort as the Canadians did.

The Reagan Administration has put great emphasis on the POW/MIA issue. There are 40 intelligence analysts working 7 days a week at the Defense Intelligence Agencies, specifically on this issue, primarily getting reports coming out of Southeast Asia, and any evidence we can get from North Korea.

We also have 42 people at the laboratory in Hawaii that are trained professionals and do search and recovery work and do forensic work and identification work.

So the issue is moving on. We are not getting there as fast as we would like to, and we are not getting there as fast as you would like us to, but we are working very hard at it.

As far as the possibility of live Americans in Southeast Asia, the official position is that we have had over 1,000 reports in the 15 years since the end of the Vietnam war, or at least the end of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

We have over 1,000 reports of live sightings of Americans, of which about 120 of those are still open. They have not been able to be correlated with a known American that was returned or not been judged to be a fabrication.

That means in over 15 years, we have had 120 reports of live Americans that we can not verify.

So the government's position is quite simply, we don't know whether there are live Americans or not, therefore we will assume, we will presume and proceed on the assumption that there are live Americans. And should we find harder evidence of where live Americans may be held, we will take whatever action is necessary to return them to America.

There has been quite a cottage industry set up in Southeast Asia of individuals who want to benefit from the American people's concern about the POW/MIA issue. These are what we call the "Rambo Faction." These are in effect, soldiers of fortune that are out there trying to make some money out of the issue by bilking the American public and bilking the families of MIAs, saying they can get evidence of this and evidence of that, and they can come up with these people and return them to their loved ones.

Ninety percent of these are pure con men, and again, we would just hope that they not be supported, because in some cases, particularly in two in the case of Laos, they actually cost us relations with the Laotian government, because of some excavations and because of their across the board tactics.

In summary, I think we just need to show our national support and resolve for this important issue. We will keep on working on it.

I think the reason why we do this is best summed up by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger when he said, we have three D's.

The first D is for duty. We feel a duty to those servicemen to know that they will be eventually accounted for, and that we will seek out and recover them. We owe a debt to their families, who in effect loaned their servicemen to us in the defense of their country, and we owe a debt to come up with as complete as possible an accounting and it is really a downpayment on all current service members and all future service members with the knowledge that should they become missing or captured that their country will not fail them.

With that, that is where we are today. Keep your fingers crossed that the talks this weekend will bear some fruit. If they do, we should be going in there with two search and recovery teams. We can get them in there as early as the end of this month, and we will be there for at least a three month period, perhaps much longer.

We would first go in and do site surveys and see what is at the site and talk to the villagers at the sites, and then we would go in with heavier equipment and actually evacuate.

Again, I appreciate your offer to come and talk to you today, and God bless you, and thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very, very much. We appreciate that. I know that is a compilation of what we went through when I visited Hawaii, and I am so happy that this report was made.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair now recognizes Mr. Roger Munson of Ohio, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on National Security for the purpose of a report.

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON SECURITY

Roger A. Munson (OH) Chairman

Mr. Chairman, at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 4, 1988, 236 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Security met initially in meeting rooms 207 and 208 of the Commonwealth Convention Center. Mr. Roger A. Munson (Ohio) was elected Chairman and Mr. George Harvey (Michigan) was appointed secretary.

The six authorized convention committees (Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs, and Naval Affairs) met in separate meeting rooms. An additional ad hoc committee was appointed for General Security Resolutions which required special attention. The following were elected chairmen and secretaries of the Convention Security Committees:

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

Chairman: James E. Starr (Minnesota)
Secretary: William A. Lindsay (Montana)

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Frank J. D'Amico (New York)
Secretary: Henry Jacoby (Nebraska)

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dudley Robbins (North Carolina)
Secretary: Jack M. Rainey (Virginia)

MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

Chairman: John W. Sumrall (Mississippi)
Secretary: Vernon Hill (Washington)

MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Norbert Harmeyer (Iowa)
Secretary: Hal Manson (Montana)

NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman: John J. Wrenn (Massachusetts)
Secretary: Stewart R. Kunde (Minnesota)

On Sunday afternoon, September 4, 1988, the Delegates again assembled in the Commonwealth Convention Center at 1:00 p.m. for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Security. Reports of all Convention Committees were read and their recommended action on resolutions considered. A total of 97 Resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on security or prepared by the Committees to meet problems which were held to be of concern to The American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives.

Because many of the resolutions addressed major defense issues which affected all of the military departments and the future of the United States in the world, a special subcommittee was appointed to consider those resolutions. Robert Klipstine (Ohio) was appointed Chairman and Hazel Carlson (Florida) Secretary.

We will now commence with the report, Bob Klipstine of Ohio, Chairman.

GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC COMMITTEE
Robert Klipstine (Ohio), Chairman

Because many of the resolutions addressed major defense issues which affected all of the military departments and the future of the United States in the world, a special subcommittee was appointed to consider those resolutions. Robert Klipstine (Ohio) was elected Chairman, and Hazel Carlson was elected Secretary. The following is a summary of their action.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res No: 6 (Arizona) Subject: **Maintaining A Strong Intelligence Community For The United States**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has developed preponderant missile forces of all ranges and a means of countering such weapons is essential to our security that the Strategic Defense Initiative must be developed and deployed; and

WHEREAS, These weapons are not the only means developed by the Soviet Union in its objective of Russian world domination, it is also essential that the United States Government be aware of the entire spectrum of threat and act to neutralize it; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has long researched and developed weapons of other physical principles, such as laser, particle beam, chemical, biological agent, radio frequency, psychological and economic, it is incumbent on the Intelligence Community of the United States to detect and report such developments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion insist that the United States Intelligence Community properly address the entire spectrum of the Soviet threat against the United States, and that such reports by properly, decisively, and promptly acted on by the Government.

Res No: 49 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 262 (District of Columbia), and Res. 369 (Maryland) Subject: **Support Of The President's Five Year Defense Plan**

WHEREAS, The fundamental goals of the United States are stated in the Constitution "... to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general warfare and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity;" and

WHEREAS, To ensure our freedom and democratic institutions, as our Declaration of Independence states: "... we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor;" and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it is the paradox of peace that to preserve it, we must be prepared to use force and use it successfully; and

WHEREAS, Only if we can convince any potential adversary that the cost of aggression would be far higher than any possible benefit, can we be certain that aggression will be deterred and peace preserved; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union's military buildup, both quantitative and qualitative, has produced a major shift in the nuclear and conventional balance; and

WHEREAS, The United States had made a conscious choice to restrict its strategic nuclear force development in an effort to encourage similar restraints from the Soviets; instead, they aggressively stepped up their strategic nuclear programs and show no signs of slowing; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union, in the area of Conventional forces, had long held an overall quantitative advantage; but in recent years that advantage has widened in almost all categories as major weapons are being produced at rates exceeding those of the United States and its NATO allies combined; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union's military posture has become increasingly offensive in orientation and they have significantly expanded the global reach of their military forces, enhancing their ability to project influence and power; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of Soviet military might and their willingness to use it as demonstrated in their invasion of Afghanistan has upset the balance of power that had kept the peace between the superpowers; and

WHEREAS, The President has requested a defense budget authority for Fiscal Year 1987 of over $300 billion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that Congress be called upon to support the President's Five Year Defense Plan based upon a policy of peace and freedom through strength thereby preserving a continued national defense strategy of deterrence, which meets four tests:

Survivability: Our forces must be able to survive a preemptive attack with sufficient strength to threaten losses that outweigh gains.

Credibility: Our threatened response to an attack must be credible, i.e., of a form that the potential aggressor believes we could and would carry out.

Clarity: The action to be deterred must be sufficiently clear to our adversaries that the potential aggressor knows what is prohibited.

Safety: The risk of failure through accident, unauthorized use or miscalculation must be minimized.

Res No: 52 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 360 (Maryland) Subject: **Anti-Satellite Weapon**

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has perfected its spy satellites to the extent that they can track U.S. warships protecting shipping in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have demonstrated the ability to send satellite data directly to warships at sea, rather than passing it through a central processing facility; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have tested and placed in an operational status a "killer satellite" capable of disabling or destroying other intelligence fathering satellites; and

WHEREAS, The United States has only conducted one test of an anti-satellite rocket against an actual satellite; and

WHEREAS, The United States Air Force has been denied funding for additional tests of the U.S. anti-satellite weapon; and

WHEREAS, These additional tests are absolutely necessary to ensure the reliability of this system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it does urge the Congress of the United States to fund research, development, testing and eventual deployment of a capable anti-satellite weapon by the Armed Forces of the United States.

Res No: 176 (Pennsylvania) Consolidated with Res. 51 (Montana) Subject: **The Nuclear Force Structure**

WHEREAS, The underlying principle of national security policy is to deter war; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have engaged in a steady build-up of strategic nuclear weapons so that today the Soviet land based force consists of approximately 1,400 launchers carrying nearly 6,400 warheads over three times those of the United States and despite this significant advantage, Soviet modernization and expansion continues; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets are modernizing their submarine-launch ballistic missiles and their nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines and the Soviets are producing three types of strategic bombers and continue improvements on all of these offensive forces; and

WHEREAS, In developing their strategic nuclear offensive capability, the Soviets have emphasized their intercontinental missiles (ICBMs), and have modernized that force, stressing improved readiness, greater throw-weight, increased accuracy, better command and control; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have also increased the number of re-entry vehicles and have provided hardened silos to improve survivability and have modernized surface-to-air missiles, improved radar and fighter aircraft capability and improved ballistic missile defense around Moscow and continue to expand and modernize their fighter aircraft force and are spending vast sums on strategic offensive and defensive forces; and

WHEREAS, If the United States TRIAD of ICBMs, submarine launch ballistic missiles and bombers, are to provide a viable and powerful deterrent, continued United States modernization is required; and

WHEREAS, The United States has embarked on an ICBM modernization program deploying the Peacekeeper Missile and developing a single warhead small ICBM deployed on hardened mobile launchers, but because of budget constraints the Small Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles have been terminated with only minimum funding to allow the next Administration the option to restart the Small ICBM program; and

WHEREAS, A force of penetrating bombers employing long range cruise missiles, gravity bombs and short range attack missiles, precludes the Soviet planning from optimizing defensive forces against a single threat and requires massive allocation of resources to defense; and the Air Force Bomber Modernization Program is designed to counter existing projects Soviet defense improvements; and

WHEREAS, A modernized TRIAD will complicate Soviet attack planning to the point that no Soviet planner could count on a successful attack on the Air Force makes major contribution to this viability by modernizing its two components, namely land based ICBMs and manned strategic bombers; and

WHEREAS, Continued exploration of other areas of advanced ICBM technology such as maneuvering re-entry vehicles, earth penetrating weapons and future generation penetration aids is of vital importance to our national defense; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports as essential elements in the TRIAD the modernization of the Intercontinental ballistic missile, including the improvement and further additional production and development of the Peacekeeper Missile System, the restart of the Small ICBM Program, the maintenance and improvement of the Minuteman capability including improvements on responsiveness, accuracy, penetration aids upgrade and improved reliability through repair of parts and facilities, the development of new technologies directed toward development of penetration aids systems for each of the said ICBMs and a bomber modernization program including the modification of the B52, the further development and improvement of the B-1B Bomber, and the B-2 Stealth Bomber; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That together with the modernization and development of these strategic Air Force Programs that the United States continue to develop its nuclear force structure necessary to deter the Soviet Union while minimizing destruction to the United States if attacked and to continue advanced research efforts so as to enhance the survivability, penetrability and performance of United States ICBMs.

Res No: 263 (District of Columbia) Consolidated with Res. 50 (Montana), Res. 69 (Ohio), Res. 182 (Pennsylvania) and Res. 379 (Maryland) Subject: **Strategic Defense Initiative**

WHEREAS, The U.S. has successfully deterred nuclear attack for 40 years through the threat of retaliation, but new technologies may offer improved deterrence through the possibility of the addition of defensive measures against missile attack; and

WHEREAS, A defense designed to intercept missiles, as opposed to a policy of unlimited nuclear retaliation, adheres to the principles of proportionality and discrimination, destroying only enemy nuclear weapons and imposing no harm on innocent, noncombatant life; and

WHEREAS, Even a partially effective strategic defense system would proportionately decrease the effectiveness of Soviet Nuclear forces, further contributing to deterrence; and

WHEREAS, Current investment in the Strategic Defense Initiative represents only about 1% of the DOD budget; and

WHEREAS, The Strategic Defense Initiative has compelled the Soviet Union to return to the bargaining table and has spurred concessions from the Soviet Union in arms control negotiations; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has been quietly, but purposefully, developing and deploying elements of their own strategic defense, including anti-ballistic missiles, ground-based lasers and phased-array radars; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the U.S. proceed deliberately and resolutely toward the development and deployment of a strategic defense system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as elements of a strategic defense system, such as ground-based lasers or kinetic kill vehicles, achieve mature development, they should be deployed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Strategic Defense Initiative should not be relinquished in order to achieve negotiation concessions from the Soviet Union.

Res No: 367 (Maryland) Subject: **Strategic Nuclear Policy**

WHEREAS, The United States has considered that global nuclear war would essentially spell the destruction of civilization, a view which led us in the 1960s and 1970s to accept a steady erosion of our military strategic strength through successive enunciated policies which only confirmed our diminishing relative strength; and

WHEREAS, The continued acceptance of such a policy would lead us to a position of inferior strategic strength, vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, by the mid-80s; and

WHEREAS, a strategic policy which would hold our own citizens hostages to nuclear attack in order to deter aggression lacks credibility because of the Soviets recently developed more accurate and powerful MIRVed ICBMs, having first strike capability; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union strategists have long developed their military war machine from the concept of "winning" a nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, In developing their strategic nuclear offensive capability, the Soviets have emphasized their intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and have been modernizing that force, stressing improved readiness, greater throw-weight, increased accuracy, better command and control; and

WHEREAS, They have also increased the number of re-entry vehicles and provided hardened silos to improve survivability; and

WHEREAS, here is evidence from the budgets submitted to the Congress that the Administration is attempting to provide our armed forces with improved strategic capabilities to counter the Soviet advances; and

WHEREAS, The development of new capabilities and deployment of anti-ballistic missiles (ABMs) including laser weapons and other scientific breakthroughs, would enhance the survivability of our ICBMs, strategic bomber bases, defense communication sites, military facilities and the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, The improvement of our manned and unmanned capability to intercept and destroy Soviet aircraft and cruise missiles would appreciably add to the deterrence of enemy attack; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we continue to pursue a new strategic nuclear policy which will lead the U.S. to develop the needed strength to destroy Soviet strategic offensive capabilities, rather than to destroy soft targets; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That together with the development of these new capabilities that the U.S. develop the force structure necessary to deter the Soviet Union, while minimizing destruction to the United States, if attacked.

Res No: 380 (Maryland) Subject: **Military and Peaceful Use of Space**

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has announced a National Space Policy as the result of an interagency review which began in August, 1981 and which review included a comprehensive analysis of all segments of the National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, This policy reaffirms the national commitment to the exploration and use of space in support of our national well-being and establishes the basic goals of the United States policy to strengthen the security of the U.S., maintain U.S. space leadership, obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space, expand U.S. private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities, promote international cooperative activities in the national interest, and cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the national security of the United States requires the maintenance of space leadership by the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the Administration and Congress to reaffirm the national commitment to the exploration of space in support of our national security and national well-being and that the United States conduct activities in space necessary to its national security including, but not limited to, such functions as command and control, communication, navigation, environmental monitoring, warning, surveillance and space defense.

Res No: 381 (Maryland) Subject: **Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence**

WHEREAS, Our Command authorities, both military and civilian, require timely, accurate, and unambiguous information to plan military operations and to select alternative courses of action; and

WHEREAS, All Commanders and their staffs must then be assured that the decisions emanating from this information can be clearly and accurately communicated to the forces and weapons systems under their control; and

WHEREAS, Typically these systems consist of an array of sensors, communication links, command and control support facilities, and information processing and display equipment which collectively constitutes a significant combat multiplier; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that C3I systems be provided that maximize the performance of our weapons systems and the operability of our forces in terms of survivability, endurability, inter-operability, and effectiveness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the Administration and Congress to continue to provide the necessary improvements in the area of Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I).

This completes this section of the report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: For the Aerospace Committee report, Chairman James E. Starr.

REPORT OF AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JAMES E. STARR: The following seven resolutions are recommended for approval.

APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Res No: 53 (Montana) Subject: **Support of The National Space Program**

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has announced a National Space Policy as the result of an inter-agency review which began in August, 1981 and which review included a comprehensive analysis of all segments of the National Space Program; and

WHEREAS, This policy reaffirms the national commitment to the exploration and use of space in support of our national well-being and establishes the basic goals of the United States policy to strengthen the security of the U.S., maintain U.S. space leadership, obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space, expand U.S. private sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities, promote international cooperative activities in the national interest, and cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed that the national security of the United States requires the maintenance of space leadership by the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the Administration and Congress to reaffirm the national commitment to the exploration of space in support of our national security and national well-being and that the United States conduct activities in space necessary to its national security including, but not limited to, such functions as command and control, communications, navigation, environmental monitoring, warning, surveillance and space defense.

Res No: 54 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 368 (Maryland) Subject: **Procurement of Additional Space Launch Vehicles**

President Ronald Reagan reaffirmed the national commitment of the exploration and use of space in support of our national well being and established the basic goals of the United States space policy which are to:

(1) Strengthen the security of the United States;

(2) Maintain United States space leadership;

(3) Obtain economic and scientific benefits through the exploration of space;

(4) Expand United States private-sector investment and involvement in civil space and space-related activities;

(5) Promote international cooperative activities in the national interest; and

(6) Cooperate with other nations in maintaining the freedom of space for activities which enhance the security and welfare of mankind; and

WHEREAS, A catastrophic accident involving the Challenger Space Shuttle has highlighted the vulnerability of our reliance on a single space transportation system for all U.S. space access regardless of redundancy and high reliability; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent accidents with the TITAN and DELTA space launch vehicles' have placed in serious jeopardy the national security of the United States by creating a backlog of 15 to 20 DOD space missions by 1989; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the Administration and Congress be urged to move with immediate dispatch to procure and launch additional Expendable Launch Vehicles beyond current plans to prevent a severe impact on critical DOD space requirements; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we procure a replacement Space Shuttle Orbiter so that we can confidently meet our space launch needs and meet the basic goals of our National Space Policy; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress support programs designed to address future space transportation requirements, particularly the need to decrease the cost per pound of placing a payload in orbit and, through funding of research like the National Aero-Space Plane.

Res No: 179 (Pennsylvania) Subject: **C-17 Aircraft**

WHEREAS, Fiscal Year 1987 was the last year that the Air Force procured C-5B and KC-10 aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The C-17 is the key to the long term Air Force program to reduce strategic and theater airlift shortfalls especially in the area of intertheater delivery of outside Army equipment and provides the theater commander with outsize cargo capability, offsets the capability lost as older aircraft begin leaving the inventory in the 1990's and reduces airfield congestion with direct delivery and efficient design characteristics; and

WHEREAS, The air refuelable C-17 will be able to carry all classes of cargo over intercontinental distances and operate directly into small austere airfields typical of contingency areas around the world and will be capable of all delivery modes, i.e., airland, airdrop and low-altitude parachute extraction systems; and

WHEREAS, It is the Air Force plan to purchase 210 C-17's from the Fiscal Year 1988 through Fiscal Year 1998 and deploy the said aircraft into the active force, Associate Reserve, Guard and Reserve Units with initial operational capability of the first 12 aircraft to be achieved in Fiscal Year 1992 and with the procurement of 4 proposed in Fiscal Year 1989; and

WHEREAS, Fiscal Year 1988 budget actions left the C-17 program with no management reserve to incorporate design improvements without jeopardizing the aircrafts' unique features; and

WHEREAS, The continued development and procurement of the C-17 is necessary to meet the critical airlift requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge the funding, accelerated procurement and improvements of the said C-17 aircraft.

Res No: 180 (Pennsylvania) as amended Subject: **Strategic Bomber Force**

WHEREAS, Over the past several decades, the modernization of the U.S. Strategic forces had not kept pace with the relentless growth of Soviet nuclear capabilities, and our deterrent posture has eroded so that we now face a formidable challenge; and

WHEREAS, An announced comprehensive plan for modernizing our strategic forces includes upgrading the B-1B Bomber in the 1980's while we pursue vigorous development of the B-2 Stealth Bomber for deployment during the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, The B-1B Bomber is a multi-role bomber capable of performing both nuclear and conventional delivery missions that can function well into the 21st Century, and when the B-2 is deployed it will serve in a mixed role as a cruise missile carrier and penetrator; its combination of high speed, low altitude tactics, and electronic countermeasures and low radar cross section makes the B-1B an effective penetrator; and although the B-1B program remains with the certified $20.5 billion (FY 81 dollars) cost ceiling, the program funding has been threatened by the Congress and those funds must be maintained to complete and upgrade the work on the B-1B; and

WHEREAS, The B-2 is a long range strategic bomber which will incorporate extensive low observable technology making detection by enemy defenses difficult and will be able to negate Soviet surface-to-air missiles and the advancements of the Soviets in lookdown/shootdown interceptors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports the continued upgrade of the B-1B Bomber systems, including the funding of additional development and demonstration of the aircraft's operational capability and the continued development of its defense system followed by the introduction of the B-2 Stealth Bomber with funding to be provided for the development and delivery of the said B-2 Stealth Bomber in the early 1990's.

Res No: 181 (Pennsylvania) as amended Subject: **Peacekeeper Missile System**

WHEREAS, The Peacekeeper Missile System is the foundation of the Air Force ICBM Modernization Program; and

WHEREAS, The Scowcroft Commission recommended deploying 100 Peacekeeper Missiles in existing Minuteman Silos to counter the Soviet ability to destroy hardened land based targets, to demonostrate U.S. national will and to provide incentive for arms control; and

WHEREAS, The Congress has approved deployment of 50 Peacekeeper Missiles in existing Minuteman Silos and Congress further directed that deployment of missiles beyond 50 would be subject to Congressional approval of a more survivable basing mode; and

WHEREAS, On the basis of extensive studies the President has selected the Rail-Garrison mode for development; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has concluded that the Rail-Garrison mode will meet the survivability concerns of Congress as well as the security and deterrent needs of the United States for today and well into the future; and

WHEREAS, The deployment of the Peacekeeper day-to-day in secure areas and dispersing it during times of increased tension, will diversify our strategic forces, enhance deterrence and promote stability; and

WHEREAS, The deployment of the said Peacekeeper Missiles is necessary to encourage the Soviets to engage seriously in negotiating strategic arms reduction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion supports the continued testing and evaluation of the Peacekeeper Missile System, the funding of additional missiles, and the construction of facilities and the development of the Rail-Garrison basing option, and the continued production and deployment of an adequate number of said Peacekeeper Missiles.

Res No: 370 (Maryland) Subject: **Modernize The U.S. Air Force**

WHEREAS, The free world has learned a very hard lesson; weakness and appeasement lead not to peace, but to war; and

WHEREAS, To keep the peace, we have to maintain strong deterrent forces while we seek equitable and verifiable arms reductions agreements with the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Modernization of our strategic offensive forces was generally deferred during the 1970's; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have modernized their ICBM forces and have also deployed over 440 SS-20 intermediate range nuclear missiles, of which two-thirds can cover all of Europe and the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, To maintain credible deterrence and a stable nuclear balance, the President, in October 1981, directed the U.S. Air Force to undertake the first comprehensive modernization of our strategic forces since they were built in the 1950's and 1960's and

WHEREAS, Seventeen major studies since 1974 have found, in every case, that airlift requirements far exceed capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Congressionally Mandated Mobility Study (CMMS) has concluded programmed mobility capability could not meet current or project requirements, resulting in the CMMS recommending an Air Force capable of providing a minimum objective of 66 million tons per day (MTM/D) of intertheater airlift capability with one-half of the additional forces outsized capability; and

WHEREAS, The only means available to the ground combat forces to deploy and sustain their power is either by air or water; with airlift being the only means likely to have any significant effect; and

WHEREAS, Due to steady growth in Soviet military power and steady improvement in the combat capabilities of their tactical forces, the USAF needs to continue to modernize and expand its own tactical air force; and

WHEREAS, The highest priority for our general purpose forces is to improve readiness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Since FY 81 the USAF has more than doubled funding for munitions and spare parts and will continue to fund spares and munitions at the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets are producing approximately 1,000 modern tactical fighters per year in contrast with our request 264; and the Soviet tactical and theater air forces consists of over 6,000 fighters, interceptors, fighterbombers, and medium bombers; and

WHEREAS, The first consideration in employing aerospace forces is gaining and maintaining freedom of action to conduct operations against enemy forces; and

WHEREAS, We cannot expect to achieve numerical superiority against Soviet forces, even with the cooperation of allies; and

WHEREAS, We must exploit our current technological leadership to maintain and improve our qualitative advantage in fighter aircraft, engines, weapon systems and missiles; and

WHEREAS, In space, both the Soviets and the U.S. are dependent largely on satellites for warning, communications, and command and control of their forces world-wide; the Soviets have launched four or five times as many satellites over the past decade as the United States and have the world's only operational space weapons system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support:

(1) As a first priority, the USAF's efforts to update strategic modernization. With timely acquisition of 100 Peacekeeper missiles, development of the small ICBM, and deployment and development of a mixed Strategic Bomber forces of B-1B's and ATB's; and

(2) The USAF's greater emphasis and higher priority on global airlift capabilities with deployment and development of the C-5B and C-17 aircraft at the earliest possible time; and

(3) The USAF's continuing goal to adequately fund readiness items and build toward required sustainability levels; and

(4) The USAF's efforts to improve the effectiveness and quantity of its tactical fighter forces available for air-to-air and air-to-ground combat, by achieving the 40 TFW goal by early 1990; development and deployment of the Advanced Tactical Fighter, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) and the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting System for Night (LATERN) weapon systems; and

(5) The USAF's continuing effort in support of national priorities in space and the promising Strategic Defense Initiative; and

(6) The USAF's continued work to improve vitally important tactical Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C31), in conjunction with the other Services, particularly the Army and Marine Corps; and

(7) The USAF's close coordination with the other services to avoid duplicating assigned missions.

Res No: 509 (Committee) Subject: **Space Education**

WHEREAS, Exploration in space, advancement in space education, and the stimulation of interest in space by our youth are prime ingredients in maintaining and advancing our nation's space programs; and

WHEREAS, There has been proposed in the State of California the establishment of a Space Academy and NASA Air and Space Museum which would provide a space camp, teacher resource center, exhibit center, visitor information center, state of the art theater, and a research airplane park; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the United States that the establishment of such facilities as envisioned in the California proposal will enhance and advance the space programs in our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion endorses the creation and establishment of space academies and museums by the States of our nation as envisioned by the California proposal.

This concludes the portion of the Aerospace Committee's report.

CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, Jim. The Defense Civil Preparedness Committee, Frank J. D'Amico of New York.

REPORT OF DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman Frank J. D'Amico, New York, submitted the following report:

Mr. Commander, Mr. Chairman, Delegates and Alternates the approved resolutions of the Defense Civil Preparedness Committee are as follows:

Res No: 24 (Utah) as amended Subject: **Oil Exploration On The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain**

WHEREAS, This Nation's national security and transportation system is dependent primarily upon petroleum as a fuel source; and

WHEREAS, Imports of foreign oil have been increasing and could reach the 50% level within as brief a period as two years; and

WHEREAS, Heavy reliance on foreign oil sources weakens the U.S. economy, undermines national security, eliminates American jobs, and increases the deficit; and

WHEREAS, Development of domestic energy resources is vital to a reliable and continuing fuel supply for national security and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Development of such resources to actual production involves a time frame of years; not weeks or months; and

WHEREAS, The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is believed to contain as much as 9.2 billion barrels of oil; and

WHEREAS, The petroleum industry has amply demonstrated the ability to explore and develop environmentally sensitive areas without catastrophic damage, as witnessed in the Prudhoe Bay area along with the Alaska pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced that would allow exploration and development of the energy resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge area; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of the Interior has asked Congress to permit oil exploration on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain under the close supervision perfected at Prudhoe Bay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion urge Congress and the other interested parties to oppose legislation that would close off and lock up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge resources and preclude exploration and development of this much needed reserve for our national security.

Res No: 25 (Utah) as amended Subject: **Federal Oil and Gas Leasing System**

WHEREAS, Current Federal oil and gas leasing practices under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 encourages exploration and development and provides a fair return to the public; and

WHEREAS, The present system of oil and gas leasing on federal land allows smaller independent operators and companies an opportunity to compete with major companies for federal leases; and

WHEREAS, Most of the wildcat leasing and exploratory drilling throughout the Nation is done by independent companies; and

WHEREAS, Combined oil and gas make up a large portion of the total production, most of which is produced from federal land leases that are vital to a reliable and continuing fuel supply for transportation and national security; and

WHEREAS, Imports of foreign oil have been increasing at an alarming rate and could reach the 50% level within a period of two years; and

WHEREAS, Heavy reliance on foreign oil sources weakens the U.S. economy, undermines national security, eliminates American jobs, and increases the trade deficit; and

WHEREAS, Oil and gas leasing and development is subject to comprehensive environmental regulations and restrictions which dictate a thorough environmental review and analysis of activities with public participation encouraged throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, There is pending in both houses of Congress bills that would amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to further restrict exploration and development on public lands that would add additional environmental and land use restrictions on oil and gas exploration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support the current federal oil and gas leasing system and oppose any legislative changes in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 that would seriously jeopardize this Nation's national security by not being able to supply our petroleum needs in a time of national emergency.

Res No: 359 (Maryland) Subject: **Civil Defense Program**

WHEREAS, We recognize that hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and other natural disasters are inevitable; and

WHEREAS, protecting lives and valuable resources in peacetime through a comprehensive civil defense system that will also function in time of war is reasonable, sensible, and cost effective approach that merits our full support; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear parity and disparity exists between the Soviet Union and the United States; parity in nuclear weapons and active defense, and disparity in active air defenses and passive defense to include civil defense; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union gives undivided attention to the task of protecting the population under conditions of modern warfare and recognize civil defense as a vital part of military strategy; and

WHEREAS, Outside the Soviet Union their officials "advise" Americans and others that civil defense, which they develop assiduously at home, is useless; and

WHEREAS, Our determination to survive as a nation deserves a positive pursuit and implementation of a civil defense system that would affect the survival of individuals and as a nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the President and Congress and the Department of Defense of the United States to:

(1) Recognize that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense system could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary; and

(2) Give increased funds, support and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(3) Restock shelters and warehouses with survival food, and rotate those stocks when responding to requests from natural disasters around the world; and

(4) Reinitiate public and private works programs that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection, to include underground and in-mountain facilities; and

(5) Support the President's revitalized civil defense program to improve our total defense posture; and

(6) That we strongly support and aggressively pursue additional funding by the Congress to broaden the Civil Defense Program with proper funding for increasing warning systems and training programs for the communities across the nation.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Defense Preparedness Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, Frank. The Law and Order Committee, Chairman Dudley Robbins of North Carolina.

REPORT OF LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman Dudley Robbins, North Carolina, submitted the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Commander, fellow Delegates, the Law and Order Committee met and considered two resolutions. They are as follows:

Res No: 307 (Virginia) Subject: **Military Interdiction of Illegal Drug Traffic**

WHEREAS, Military priority in the United States should be the defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, The armed forces must continue to maintain the delicate balance between providing assistance for drug traffic interdictions and assuring our national military readiness; and

WHEREAS, A Congressional proposal which, if enacted into law, would require the President to deploy the armed forces to stop the flow of narcotics into the United States; and

WHEREAS, This effort to get the Department of Defense more involved comes at a time when the Coast Guard, the force best suited and equipped for drug interdiction, has had its budget severely cut, forcing a drastic reduction of personnel for drug enforcement and patrol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it supports the continuation of limited assistance by the Department of Defense to the Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies for drug traffic interdiction, but is strongly opposes the deployment of armed forces with primary mission of drug law enforcement; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion supports increased funding of the Coast Guard for its drug enforcement mission and effectiveness.

Res No: 511 (Committee) Consolidated with Res. 264 (District of Columbia); and Res. 362 (Maryland) Subject: **Registration of Firearms**

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of state and local government to protect their citizens; yet those local governments cannot be held responsible for failing to protect their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Research conducted in 1981 found that in 4% of American households, someone had used a handgun to protect themselves from harm from another person within the previous five years which amounts to one use every 48 seconds; and

WHEREAS, According to a 1979-1985 study by the National Crime Survey, when a robbery victim does not defend himself, the robber succeeds 88% of the time, and the victim injury rate is 25% and when a victim resists with a gun, the robbery success rate is only 30% and the victim injury rate falls to 17%; and

WHEREAS, A study in 1982-83 by the National Institute of Justice found that two-fifths of prison inmates surveyed decided not to attack a person when they found out that the person was armed; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970's when the Orlando, Florida Police Department trained 2,500 women to use guns, the rape incidence fell by 88% and the burglary rate fell by 25%; and

WHEREAS, If a burglar commits a crime at an occupied home, his chances of being shot and going to jail are equal; and

WHEREAS, In a survey of every chief of police and sheriff in the nation by the National Association of Chiefs of Police and the American Federation of Police, 90% of the respondents believed that a ban on handguns would result in more citizens becoming targets of armed violence; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that only one gun owner in 3,000 ever commits a homicide and that one lone killer is generally a person with a record of violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion is opposed to any legislation, ordinance, rule or any other form of regulation which would prevent the law abiding citizens of this nation from exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms including handguns.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Law and Order Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, Dudley. The Merchant Marine Committee, Chairman John W. Sumrall of Mississippi.

REPORT OF MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman John W. Sumrall, Mississippi, submitted the following report:

Mr. Commander, Mr. Chairman, the Merchant Marine Committee approved the following resolutions:

Res No: 343 (Washington) Consolidated with Res. 376 (Maryland) Subject: **Rebuild Merchant Marine**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long sought to rebuild the United States privately owned and operated merchant marine; and

WHEREAS, The steady growth of the Soviet merchant fleet to 1,750 ships capable of carrying more than 20.7 million tons and operate globally; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets view their merchant marine which included roll-on/roll-off features in support of military operations as part of the Navy; and

WHEREAS, The Russian liner fleet is now the world's largest, with about 80 oceangoing vessels providing 23,000 to 25,000 berths, and is a prime intelligence gathering arm; and

WHEREAS, According to latest USSR figures their vessels serve 1,300 ports in 124 countries, and are expanding service to Central America, especially Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama; and

WHEREAS, In 1950 the U.S. ranked first in the world in number of ships and capacity; today it stands 10th in numbers and 8th in tonnage; and

WHEREAS, The total American Flag commercial fleet, including passenger liners, now number 445 ships, and carries less than 6% of our total foreign trade; and

WHEREAS, If present trends continue our fleet will decline to 217 vessels to 2000, which would be unable to either move men and supplies overseas or sustain those already there; and

WHEREAS, In an emergency, the U.S. cannot rely on the approximately 400 American-owned merchant ships registered with foreign countries and manned by foreign crews; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the U.S. Government in cooperation with maritime management and labor, to rebuild the American merchant marine to its former position as second to none in the world under the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

Res No: 358 (Maryland) Subject: **Merchant Marine Reserve Fleet**

WHEREAS, The Navy has recognized shortage of available hulls for transport, supply support, or forward, on-station stowage of essential materials; and

WHEREAS, Current force, deployment, and mission constraints are the result of inadequate shipping capacity; and

WHEREAS, This shortfall is potentially correctable through employment of inexpensive, proven devices to make a merchant cargo ship efficient in a naval role; and

WHEREAS, The Maritime Administration currently has available in its Merchant Reserve Fleet over 200 merchant ships ideally suited to fulfill this need; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the Defense Department conduct an assessment of current hulls and that such hulls be identified and preprogrammed for activation and employment in support of the Fleet in case of national emergency.

Res No: 507 (Committee)Subject: **Federal Academy Awards**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has had, since its founding, a distinguished group of (5) five National Vice Commanders; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, for many years, presented awards to graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy, and

WHEREAS, The presentation of these awards are made by National Vice Commanders; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion now recognizes as veterans, those who served in the Merchant Marine during World War II; and

WHEREAS, A 5th Federal Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, should then be so honored by The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion adopt and present a suitable award on an annual basis, to a graduating cadet of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York by one of our five National Vice Commanders.

(Referred to Trophies Awards and Ceremonials Committee)

Res No: 508 (Committee) Subject: **United States Tall Ship**

WHEREAS, The United States Merchant Marine is in a gravely depressed and rapidly declining condition. Our national defense capability is seriously compromised by the lack of U.S. merchant ships and seamen; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to promote a greater recognition of the contributions and sacrifices made on behalf of our country, in peace and in war, by our American merchant seamen; and

WHEREAS, the United States is suffering from a serious trade deficit, and needs to fully develop its export trade potential; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need to aggressively promote goodwill throughout the world, promoting a better understanding of the United States; and

WHEREAS, There is good need for American representation at international celebrations and tall ship events; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting, and appropriate, to create a new national symbol for the 1992 Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Celebration which pays tribute to the legacy of Christopher Columbus, by seeking new trade and ambassadorial routes for our future; and

WHEREAS, The United States Tall Ship Foundation is building the United States tall ship to serve our country's ambassadorial, commerce, trade and maritime industry's promotional and educational needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion officially endorse this patriotic project of the United States Tall Ship Foundation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion encourage the individual Chapters, and members therein, to participate to the fullest extent possible; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion maximize the public relations benefits of participation in the building of the United States Tall Ship, a ship to serve America for the next fifty plus years.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: The Military Affairs Committee Chairman Norbert Harmeyer of Iowa.

REPORT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman Norbert G. Harmeyer, Iowa, submitted the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commander and Delegates to this Convention. The following resolutions were approved for Military Affairs.

Res No: 42 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 371 (Maryland) Subject: **Military Pay and Quality of Life**

WHEREAS, People are the foundation of our Nation's fighting force; and

WHEREAS, Without highly qualified, dedicated men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent force necessary for this Nation to remain at peace; and

WHEREAS, Military pay must be reasonably comparable to pay available in the private sector if the Armed Services hope to compete for quality volunteers and retain an experienced military force for the long term; and

WHEREAS, While pay raises have kept pace with inflation, they have not maintained comparable wage growth with the private sector; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that Congress must restore and maintain military pay comparability, or we may, in the long run, see an exodus of those with highly transferable skills and find it extremely difficult to recruit quality personnel; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress must strive to improve those "quality of life" elements which they can influence, such as: improving Aviation Career Incentive Pay, improving medical and dental services, maintaining commissary and exchange store privileges, preserving an attractive retirement system, and maintaining favorable tax treatment of allowances.

Res No: 45 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 268 (District of Columbia); and Res. 372 (Maryland) Subject: **Military Draft**

WHEREAS, Fourteen years have elapsed since the United States initiated the effort to meet its military manpower requirements through the concept of an all volunteer force (AVF) with a standby Selective Service System theoretically capable of quick reactivation to provide in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Several underlying assumptions on which those manpower policies were based have changed since the AVF began in 1973; i.e., as stated by the Senate Armed Services Committee; "Soviet military capabilities have increased substantially in terms of quality and quantity of manpower, quantity of sophistication of materials; command control, communications and intelligence capabilities;" and

WHEREAS, All services are, at the moment, barely reaching their active duty manpower quotas; and

WHEREAS, Uncertainty for the future prevails with demographic decreases in manpower and an expanding economy; and

WHEREAS, Frequent overseas deployments and noncompetitive compensation have brought pressures on career personnel that continue to drive them from the ranks in substantial numbers seriously depleting the level of professionalism through the services; and

WHEREAS, The system brings service to the nation back into proper national perspective which history has shown to be successful as a substitute for the citizen's direct involvement in his destiny in Selective Service; and

WHEREAS, Any operative Selective Service plan must be completely fair and equitable selection for all concerned; and

WHEREAS, The Military Selective Service Act, as amended, provided a fair and equitable selection system under which 95% of our young, physically qualified men have an equal opportunity to be considered for military service through a lottery system with the stringent controls over deferments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support conscription as the primary source of personnel to meet the manpower requirements of our total armed forces.

Res No: 46 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 378 (Maryland); Res. 382 (Maryland); and Res. 351 (Maryland) Subject: **Support Modernizing The United States Land Forces Of The Army And Marine Corps**

WHEREAS, Maintaining the nation's security requires our forces to be capable of protecting U.S. interest world-wide; and

WHEREAS, The range of possible contingencies place particularly difficult demands on the land forces, the Army and the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Our land forces must be capable of defeating the heavily armored, tactically mobile force of the Warsaw Pact in Europe; of coming to the assistance of friendly states threatened by modern, well-equipped forces; and at the other extreme, of providing rapidly deployable forces for "show of force" missions or for operations against less sophisticated forces in difficult terrain; and

WHEREAS, For our land forces to provide the capabilities we need, they must be: structured properly, able to respond quickly, capable of sustained combat, and provided with modern weaponry and equipment; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Years 1987-1991 program continues a major, and long overdue modernization of land forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the Administration and Congress to support the Army and Marine Corps efforts of modernizing the United States land forces by providing necessary authorization and funding.

Res No: 47 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 207 (Puerto Rico); and Res. 349 (Maryland) Subject: **Military Commissary Operations**

WHEREAS, The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control has recommended that the Department of Defense should terminate the operation of the commissaries in the continental United States except in areas where adequate commercial food stores are not available; and

WHEREAS, The DOD Third Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (1976) indicated that the value perceived by the service member substantially outweighs the government costs; therefore, commissaries provide physic income that far exceeds the cost; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Chiefs of Staff on January 13, 1983, recommended that the President resist any attempt to alter military retirement to include benefits; and

WHEREAS, Reduced commissary support would undermine the morale of married careerists which is a key element of military preparedness, it would also be devastating to (1) junior enlisted families; (2) widows; and (3) the 100% service-connected disabled veterans eligible for commissary patronage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we strongly support retention of the military commissary system and urge the Administration and the Congress to provide necessary authorization and funding to allow the system to be preserved as an institutional support for our active duty military, military retirees, 100% service-connected disabled veterans and widows authorized commissary privileges.

Res No: 48 (Montana) Consolidated with Res. 260 (District of Columbia) and Res. 375 (Maryland) Subject: **Total Force Policy**

WHEREAS, Under the Total Force Policy, Reserve Components are a key element of the total force; and

WHEREAS, In the event of war, Reserve Components would deploy alongside Active Component units, their missions demanding that they be as capable and ready as their active-duty counterparts; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that our Reserve Components be equipped with the latest weapon systems on a "first-to-fight, first to be equipped" basis if they are to be effective; and

WHEREAS, Current programs call for increased manning, training and readiness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that Congress be called upon to authorize and fund the most modern weapons systems for use by the Reserve Components; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to authorize and fund the Reserve Components so as to provide sufficient recruiting and retention incentives to fully man units at the authorized wartime levels in order that they may accomplish their missions in the event of war.

Res No: 115 (Illinois) as amended Subject: **National Guard And Air National Guard**

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution provided that "the President shall be Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several States . . . ;" and

WHEREAS, The President and the Department of Defense have deployed National Guard and Reserve components of the military departments of 40 friendly nations for training since 1971 under the "Total Force Concept" initiated in 1971 by the Department of Defense and approved by Congress; and

WHEREAS, Overseas Deployment of Training (ODT) is designed to give Guard and Reserve Units better training under a variety of conditions, climates and environments and thereby improve their readiness for the defense of the United States if such should become necessary. At the same time, this training under ODT improves the opportunity for Guard members to learn techniques of survival and personal safety under both combatant and non-combatant situations; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard and Air National Guard have a long and illustrious history of serving the States and the Nation in war and peace, and continue a tradition of militia defense started more than 300 years ago in this country; and

WHEREAS, Most of the nations of Central America are friendly to the United States and welcome our efforts to help establish peaceful relationships in the region and to democratize all Central American countries; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua's belligerence toward its neighbors and its effort to establish a communist totalitarian form of government similar to Cuba's, threatens the security of Central America and the United States. The Sandinista government's announcement that it plans to expand its armed forces to 600,000 is stark proof in Nicaragua's threats to peace. Supported by Russia and Cuba, Nicaragua is indeed a cause for alarm for all freedom-loving people in the Western Hemisphere; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, fully supports the continued training of units of the National Guard and Air Guard in friendly, allied countries, including Honduras and other Central American democracies that issue invitations to the Guard to train in their areas.

Res No: 178 (Pennsylvania) as amended and Consolidated with Res. 1 (Kansas); Res. 55 (Montana); Res. 114 (Illinois); Res. 135 (North Dakota); Res. 275 (Arizona); Res. 348 (Maryland) and Res. 374 (Maryland) Subject: **Death Of Participant Provision**

WHEREAS, Individuals initially entering the military service from July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1988, must participate in the new version of the GI Bill for educational benefits, referred to as the Montgomery GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, Their pay is reduced $100 per month for the first 12 months of active duty in return for a minimum of $10,800 in educational benefits; and

WHEREAS, The participant must use the Montgomery GI Bill or lose his/her eligibility; and

WHEREAS, The participant may lose his/her life while on active duty; and

WHEREAS, This person may not have had the opportunity to complete his/her participation in the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, The $1,200 pay reduction or unused portion, is forfeited; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the amount equal to the reduction in his/her pay or unused portion be paid to his/her survivor.

Res No: 227 (Indiana) as amended Subject: **Selective Service System**

It has always been the policy of The American Legion to support the maintenance of the Selective Service System, in order that our nation have available a "ready manpower reserve," and this policy was re-emphasized at the 68th National Convention by Resolution No. 423 from the Department of Nebraska and Resolution No. 424 from the Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Contained in the aforementioned resolutions is the stated support of the registration system, and support of the local boards in the obtaining of that registration; and

WHEREAS, The present law mandates that such male shall register at the Post Office of his mailing address upon his 19th birthday, in order that the registrant be included in the computer system so dedicated to that purpose; and

WHEREAS, There have been many instances of flagrant violations of the present law, and instances where many who have failed to register have obtained educational loans from various governmental and private sources to further their education, a matter that upsets the equitable balance of the fairness that the present system was meant to employ, and in order that all who require educational loans from any governmental agency, and in keeping with the policy of The American Legion of providing adequate education for all law-abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, Most governmental agencies referred to herein are subsidized in whole or in part with federal funds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that it does advocate the passage of such law that would require any citizen of the United States of America, and prior to application for a County School loan or Educational loan from any governmental agency, that such applicant be in conformance with the registration requirement of the present Selective Service Law, and that any present loan recipients found not to be in compliance with such law, should immediately have such benefits revoked.

Res No: 237 (Minnesota) as amended Subject: **Supports ROTC Program**

WHEREAS, It has been the long standing policy of The American Legion, to support to the fullest extent a strong and effective ROTC Program in our nation's colleges and universities, through its National Security Program; and

WHEREAS, The ROTC is the largest single source of procurement of junior officers for both the regular and reserve establishments for all services; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its legislative efforts for the maintenance and improvement of the ROTC program, The American Legion offers an incentive to outstanding cadets, a medal award for General Military and Scholastic Excellence and also financial assistance through American Legion scholarships in recognizing the dedicated service of young Americans in the Reserve Officers Training Corps; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force will close 37 Detachments nationally, leaving the service with 114 operating ROTC units; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force is producing 50% or more of its starting officers each year through ROTC or 3,231 officers in fiscal 1987; and

WHEREAS, The elimination of the 37 ROTC units will seriously affect the future source of starting officers; and

WHEREAS, The Federal budget cuts will leave the underclass cadets and future generations of students with a loss of financial and scholarship assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the Federal Legislature appropriate sufficient funds to restore the ROTC program to its former strength.

Res No: 261 (District of Columbia) Consolidated with Res. 350 (Maryland) Subject: **Adequate Funding For U.S. Army Strategic Mobility Improvements**

WHEREAS, U.S. strategic mobility forces are currently unable to meet NATO reinforcement objectives or to project credible United States forces to areas where our national interest may be threatened; and

WHEREAS, The Army's prepositioned equipment and war reserve stocks are inadequate for many contingencies; therefore, mobility forces, both air and sea, must be increased to provide flexible power projection; and

WHEREAS, The planned conversion of Navy S1-7 container ships to roll-on, roll-off (RO/RO) configuration is essential and high priority must be given to research and development programs for surface ships which will project forces rapidly to augment airlifted forces in the future; and

WHEREAS, While prepositioning of material configured to unit sets (POMCUS) remain a key part of the strategic mobility picture, critical shortages still exist in the area; and

WHEREAS, The development of intermediate staging sites in the Persian Gulf region is essential to improve the support for the Commander in Chief Allied Forces in Central Europe (USCINCENT) because no combat force can perform its mission if it is not at the right place, at the right time, with the material; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we strongly urge the Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient funds to provide for the needed U.S. Army strategic mobility improvements.

Res No: 265 (District of Columbia) Consolidated with Res. 43 (Montana) and Res. 366 (Maryland) Subject: **Military Retirement System (COLA)**

WHEREAS, The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction bill eliminated cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for retired military and civilian personnel for Fiscal 1986; and

WHEREAS, The Administration's budget request for Fiscal 1987 recommended no cost-of-living adjustments (COLA); and

WHEREAS, Since 1958, the Congress has slowly developed "an automatic mechanism, which would, in the last analysis, guarantee every military retired member that the purchasing power of retired pay to which he was entitled at the time of retirement would not, at any time in the future, be eroded by subsequent increases in consumer prices," (HASC Committee Print #17, Title 27, U.S. Code, May 1982); and

WHEREAS, Since then reductions in the frequency of the adjustment, a series of delays and the implementation of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction Act have not supported this guarantee; and

WHEREAS, If the no-COLA provision remains in effect for the duration of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill (5 years), the real value of retired pay would shrink some 20%; and

WHEREAS, The perceptions produced by the continued attacks on military retirement pay have created some disturbing trends in retention rates of retirement-eligible personnel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that Congress preserve the guarantee of purchasing power for retired military and civilian personnel by insuring that future cost-of-living adjustments are consistent with inflation factors.

Res No: 266 (District of Columbia) Consolidated with Res. 44 (Montana) and Res. 373 (Maryland) Subject: **Selective Service System**

WHEREAS, The defense of the nation requires the maintenance of a system of military manpower procurement equal to meeting the needs of present and foreseeable defense commitments as well as primary mobilization demands; and

WHEREAS, The Selective Service System has proven itself to be fully effective in meeting the vital national needs during all wars this nation has been engaged in during this century, as well as the requirements of the peacetime Army since World War II until 1973; and

WHEREAS, The current registration program has been highly successful; and

WHEREAS, A viable Selective Service System with registration is the minimum to meet the necessary mobilization requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support: (1) the maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure; (2) the continuation of the current registration program; (3) local boards in a registrant's own community having the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system; and (4) the training of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization Procedures with the capability to rapidly expand forces by resuming inductions should world conditions require Congress to return to the draft; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the President and the Congress be urged to provide the necessary support for the Selective Service System so that the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced and the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon.

Res No: 267 (District of Columbia) Subject: **Selective Service Status and Federal Employment**

WHEREAS, Current law requires all male citizens of the United States reaching the age of 18 to register with the Selective Service System; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of military service are required to present proof of such service when they apply for federal employment, while non-veterans (including registration age males) are not required to produce any documentation pertaining to their Selective Service status; and

WHEREAS, Non-veterans, including potential non-Selective Service registrants, may be considered more desirable candidates for federal employment because their availability is not hampered by pre-employment documentation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that legislation be enacted requiring proof of Selective Service registration by any non-veteran male who applies for federal employment and that standard federal employment forms be modified to accommodate designation of registration status; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That non-Selective Service registrants who have applied for federal employment be removed from consideration until registration has been accomplished.

Res No: 364 (Maryland) Subject: **Chemical Warfare Defense**

WHEREAS, Soviet military doctrine envisages the use of chemical weapons, and acknowledges their value, particularly when used in massive quantities and in surprise attacks, they also possess a wide variety of lethal and incapacitating chemical agents and the means to deliver them; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has invested heavily in individual and collective protection and decontamination equipment and trains with actual chemical agents; and

WHEREAS, In contrast with the Soviet Union during most of the 1970's, the U.S. allowed its retaliatory capability to decline and has done little to improve defense against the use of chemicals in wartime; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal in the area of chemical warfare is a complete and verifiable ban on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons; until such a ban can be obtained, the U.S. objectives should be consistent with existing treaties and international law to deter the use of chemical weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we call upon Congress to authorize and appropriate monies for chemical warfare defense, to embark on a realistic research, development and acquisition program to deter the Soviet Union's use of chemical weapons; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we believe this program, which has at its core the production of binary munitions, will improve our chemical defensive ability while providing an incentive for meaningful arms control efforts.

Res No: 365 (Maryland) Subject: **Former Spouse Protection Act**

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States had determined that Federal law precludes a state court from dividing military pay pursuant to State community laws; and

WHEREAS, The language, structure and history of the Statute clearly states that military pay is the personal entitlement of the retiree; and

WHEREAS, That application of community property principles threatens grave harm to "clear and substantial" Federal interests goals of the military retirement system to serve as an encouragement to orderly promotion and a competent, fit military force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that The American Legion support the principle that spouses of military personnel have the right to adequate support, that military pay should only be included in judicial determination of appropriate support on a case-by-case basis and that the Federal legislation to distribute military retired pay as property between a service member and a former spouse should be revoked.

Res No: 377 (Maryland) Subject: **Malcolm Grow Medical Center**

WHEREAS, The United States Army and the United States Navy have magnificent hospital installations at Walter Reed Hospital for the Army and Bethesda Naval Hospital for the Navy; and

WHEREAS, The Air Force has an old installation at Andrews AFB greatly in need of modernization; and

WHEREAS, The personnel who administer to the patients at Andrews AFB are excellent but they are greatly hindered in the performance of their duties by the overcrowding and inadequacy of that installation by modern standards; and

WHEREAS, Military personnel and their dependents and the many retired personnel, most of whom are veterans, and other personnel legally entitled to medical service at Andrews AFB merit care comparable to that administered at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Hospital; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we call upon the Department of Defense and the United States Congress to update the hospital installation at Andrews AFB to a state comparable to that of the Navy installation at Bethesda and the Army installation at Walter Reed.

Res No: 515 (Commission) Subject: **Support Of National Guard Service**

WHEREAS, The National Guard has provided for the common defense of the United States since the earliest days of the Republic to the present; and

WHEREAS, The National Guard has always been prepared to execute its historic dual federal-state mission as established by the Founding Fathers; and

WHEREAS, The principal goal of the National Guard will continue to be the maintenance of freedom and security of the nation by guaranteeing a strong national defense through the provision of a vital and dynamic component of the Total Force; and

WHEREAS, The Army National Guard comprises one-third of the Total Army's strength and 43% of its combat units; and

WHEREAS, The Air National Guard comprises 86% of the Air Force's fighter-intercepter force in the continental United States, 50% of the tactical reconnaissance forces, 39% of the tactical air support, and 35% of the tactical airlift support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we strongly profess our continuing support of service in the National Guard as honorable, patriotic and vital to the defense interests of the United States during peace and wartime.

The following Resolutions are Referred to the Standing Commission on National Security:

Res No: 56 (North Carolina) Subject: **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**

Res No: 105 (Oklahoma) Subject: **Retired Military Medical Care**

Res No: 297 (Missouri) Subject: **Medical Care For Military Dependents and Retirees**

Res No: 352 (Maryland) Subject: **Champus Availability**

Res No: 426 (Washington) Subject: **Federal Support for State Defense Forces**

Res No: 464 (California) Subject: **United States Objectives and Programs for National Security**

The following Resolutions are Referred to the Standing Commission on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation:

Res No: 7 (Arizona) Subject: **Vietnam Era G.I. Bill**

Res No: 10 (Utah) Subject: **Vietnam Era G.I. Bill**

Res No: 253 (Georgia) Subject: **Vietnam Era G.I. Bill**

The following Resolution was Received and Recorded:

Res No: 122 (Alaska) Subject: **Oppose Nonprogrammatic Officer Strength Reductions**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, Norm. The Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, John J. Wrenn, of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

. . . Committee Chairman John J. Wrenn, Massachusetts, submitted the following report:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Approved resolutions.

Res No: 353 (Maryland) Subject: **Modernize the U.S. Navy**

WHEREAS, Water covers three quarters of the world, and the United States is an "island continent" washed by the shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Navy's postwar expansion has created an offense oriented blue water force as a major element in the Soviet Union's global reach that supports expanding Soviet influence from Nicaragua to Vietnam to Ethiopia; and

WHEREAS, Soviet use of sea power has allowed them to challenge U.S. influence in areas of the world most critical to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Our national survival and the security of our allies depend on the ability of the United States to maintain sea superiority in order to foster the strategic sealift capability, power projection capability and the strategic combat capability of the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS, There is under construction and fully funded all of the ships necessary to attain a 600 ship Navy centered on 15 carrier battle groups, 4 battleship surface action groups, and 100 nuclear-powered attack submarines; and

WHEREAS, To sustain the 600 ship Navy, a "sustaining rate" of an average of 20 ships per year in new construction will be required; and

WHEREAS, On the 75th Anniversary of Naval Aviation, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps have superbly shown the United States' ability to project power, when and where needed to uphold U.S. Foreign Policy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we support current and future Defense budget to reflect a "sustaining rate" of an average of 20 ships; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the continuing modernization of Navy and Marine Corps aircraft including the F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, A-6 Intruder, AV-8B Harrier, P-3C Orion, CH/Mh-53E Super Stallion, V-22 Osprey, and E-6a TACAMO.

Res. No: 354 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay**

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard Yard has been located in Curtis Bay since 1899; and

WHEREAS, The presence of this facility has played a vital role in the maintenance of this country's national defense base and drug smuggling patrol fleet; and

WHEREAS, Over the last seven years 76 shipyards have been closed causing the loss of over 52,000 jobs throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, This facility provides approximately 700 jobs to local area residents who due to their skills, expertise, and experience provide a highly trained human resource which would take years to replace if the YARD is closed or disbanded, and whose knowledge would not be available in the event of a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, The YARD is responsible for construction, repair, and renovations of vessels and various aids to navigation; the manufacturing of miscellaneous Coast Guard Specialized equipment and prototype experimental boat construction and evaluation; and providing logistical support to the Coast Guard fleet throughout the World with services by the Ship Inventory Control Point; and

WHEREAS, The YARD's 89 year history of service to the fleet and its unique location, with access to the Atlantic Ocean, gives its resourcefulness of rapid response to quick repair and dry dock service to the fleet; the capability of full service, repair, overhaul and construction of Coast Guard and Navy vessels; unique electronic classified capability to repair, overhaul and test of fire control systems, sonar and radar; and test and maintain ordnance capability with test and evaluation of weapons systems with facilities and simulators; and

WHEREAS, The YARD's performance on the ongoing Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) on several Coast Guard ships, is indicative of its recognized excellence throughout its history. Current recognition of this excellence is the YARD being a finalist for the U.S. Senate's "Award for Productivity" and the winner for the Maryland Center for Productivity's "Excellence in Employee Involvement Award", and

WHEREAS, The Coast Guard during wartime joins the U.S. Navy and performs missions in direct support of the effort, as in World War I and World War II and most recently in Vietnam, as "Coast Guard Squadron One." The boats, ships and, most prominently, the YARD provides service to Coast Guard and Navy vessels during peace and wartime periods, including home porting active Coast Guard and mothball vessels; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has, in House Joint Resolution 395 dealing with the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriation Act 1988, directed the Secretary, Department of Transportation, to eliminate the full time equivalent (FTE) ceiling for industrial activities at the YARD, so as to provide the Coast Guard with a more flexible ship repair and maintenance program and to lower costs for these services to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Transportation in March 1987, identified the U.S. Coast Guard YARD as a vital essential logistics capability to provide a ready and controlled source of technical competence and resource necessary to ensure the effective and timely performance of Coast Guard missions in behalf of the security, safety and economic well being of the United States and as such designated and the YARD as a "core logistics operation" and so declared that it should not be considered for contracting to private sources; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in the federal government budget is threatening the very existence of the U.S. Coast Guard Curtis Bay YARD; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that the President of the United States be urged to restore complete and full funding over and above the amount that is currently recommended by the Administration, to the United States Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, Maryland in order to keep this vital defense facility and its core logistics operation fully funded and operational with its highly technically trained and sophisticated work force intact to deal with its continuing role as a ship and defense facility and to maintain its quick response capabilities inherent in the seasoned and expert work force and facilities available at said location.

Res No: 355 (Maryland) Subject: **Ground Proximity Warning Systems**

WHEREAS, Appalling losses in Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and flight crews, 12 and 25 respectively in 1987 alone, occurred due to lack of modern equipment in our aircraft; and

WHEREAS, Deploying tactical aircraft operating at critically low altitudes, have little more than radar altimeters to warn them of impending ground collision; and

WHEREAS, The automated data processing and forecasting technology needed to provide adequate warning to pilots while there is still time to correct course does not exist; and

WHEREAS, Some $135 million in aircraft losses have been attributed by the Department of Defense to Controlled Flight Into the Ground (CFIT) in a single year (1987); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that every reasonable effort be made immediately to acquire and install the modern ground proximity warning systems that will save lives and critical aircraft, and correct this most serious compromise to Fleet readiness.

Res No: 357 (Maryland) as amended Subject: **Mine Countermeasures**

WHEREAS, Recent naval experience in the Persian Gulf has graphically illustrated our utter lack of preparedness for mine warfare; and

WHEREAS, Decreasing Navy budgets cannot accommodate needed acquisition except at the expense of other combatant units; and

WHEREAS, Dramatic evidence of the value and economy of using American Merchant Marine hulls in collateral naval missions was shown in recent Navy Arapaho Project tests and parallel testing by the British Royal Navy in the Falklands; and

WHEREAS, The needed hardware to demonstrate such an approach to mine defense is in our custody; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that a ship of the American Merchant Marine be designated by the Navy as a mine warfare test bed, with adequate funding and that the necessary portable installations and equipment be temporarily fitted to her main deck and that she be used to experiment with the latest airborne mine detection and neutralization concepts in an effort to resolve the present dilemma quickly, inexpensively and effectively.

Res No: 383 (Maryland) Subject: **ARAPAHO (U.S. Navy and Marine Corps)**

WHEREAS, The Marine Corps is dependent on the Navy for transport of its Amphibious Brigades to crisis locations in time of conflict; and

WHEREAS, The Navy has recognized quantitatively insufficient capital-ship resources for its many assigned missions and is especially deficient in resources to transport and support amphibious-type operations; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is ideally suited as an early transported, aviation platform on ship deck or on land; and

WHEREAS, Utilization of ARAPAHO would permit reduction in the need for redundancy of stored military equipment at prepositioning sites all over the world at significant cost savings; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO's capability for transport aboard otherwise idle merchant-ship hulls obviates the need for new capital ship construction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that in view of the critical need for numerical sufficiency against the Soviet Naval threat, it is imperative that the Navy and Marine Corps optimize existing resources to the maximum to develop the wartime option of deployment of ARAPAHO aboard merchant ships.

Res No: 510 (Committee) Consolidated with Res. 68 (Ohio), Res. 157 (Texas) and Res. 361 (Maryland) Subject: **Support For The U.S. Coast Guard**

WHEREAS, Included among the many duties of the United States Coast Guard are drug interdiction, intercepting illegal aliens, search and rescue, and other essential missions; and

WHEREAS, The drug interdiction effort has assumed a national importance that must not be reduced; and

WHEREAS, Continued pressures must be applied to convince drug users and dealers and profiteers that they must abandon their lawless habits and trades; and

WHEREAS, Neither Coast Guard personnel nor equipment resources needed to carry out these important missions can be sacrificed without extreme damage to the war on drugs; and

WHEREAS, The Coast Guard, by Public Law, is at all times, during wartime or peacetime, one of the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Without the necessary funding, the Coast Guard will be unable to meet its many necessary national and international commitments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we urge the Congress and the Administration to provide full funding and personnel necessary for the Coast Guard to carry out its numerous important duties, including, but not limited to, drug enforcement, military readiness, pollution, maritime safety, search and rescue mission as well as their many other necessary functions and missions.

Res No: 512 (Committee) Subject: **15 Carrier Battle Group Navy**

WHEREAS, The Navy is tasked to meet a wide variety of far-flung national commitments and U.S. guarantees and presence are often secured only by Naval forces, particularly in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Chiefs of Staff have determined that the U.S. needs more than 20 fully structured, manned and supported carrier battle groups to execute the national military strategy with a reasonable assurance of success; and

WHEREAS, A 15 carrier battle group Navy is the force level endorsed by the President and the 97th, 98th, and 99th Congress as necessary to carry out our global peacetime commitments; and

WHEREAS, Based on a rigorous assessment of the global threat to national security objectives, our defense strategy requires 15 deployable carrier battle groups as a peacetime minimum. Any reduction in total carriers available immediately translates to increased operational/personnel tempo, which has historically had an adverse impact on personnel retention and accelerated the degradation in the material condition of ships and aircraft; and

WHEREAS, The 14 carrier battle groups we have today have demonstrated time and time again that they are the single most visible and tangible evidence that the national interest of the United States will be protected around the world. Historically the Navy has been the force of choice of every administration since World War II to protect our vital interests and meet our allied commitments. Our current military operations in the Persian Gulf demonstrate that a maritime superpower faced with a wide range of global interests and a shortage of overseas basing opportunities must look to its Navy to execute national security policy in peacetime and to be on the cutting edge in conflict; and

WHEREAS, To reduce the number of our aircraft carriers would necessitate reducing our commitments, i.e., changing our national security objectives, or finding another way to protect our national interests. No administration, regardless of political persuasion, has been able to solve this particular problem with other types of force; and

WHEREAS, The aircraft carrier battle group will remain a critical element in our ability to meet U.S. national security requirements well into the 21st century; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, September 6, 7, 8, 1988, that we strongly endorse and support the earliest possible attainment of the President's goal of 15 deployable aircraft carriers as the absolute minimum number required to ensure U.S. on-scene response to world trouble spots is timely and presents the credible military force in support of our essential national interests; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the early retirement of one or more of our oldest carriers is an imprudent sacrifice of a major military capability to obtain marginal short-term cost savings.

The following Resolutions were Received and Recorded:

Res No: 356 (Maryland) Subject: **U.S. Naval Reserve ASW Functions**

Res No: 363 (Maryland) Subject: **U.S. Naval Reserve**

Mr. Chairman, that is the report of the Naval Affairs Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, John.

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR AWARDS

. . . Committee Chairman Munson submitted the following report:

Mr. Commander, National Officers, and fellow Delegates, I am particularly pleased to announce the winners of the National Blood Donor Awards for this past year.

Category I—Departments with 100,000 or more members
Post Participation—Department of Illinois
Individual Participation—Department of Illinois
Category II—70,000 to 99,999 members
Post Participation—Department of Florida
Individual Participation—Department of Wisconsin
Category III—40,000 to 69,999 members
Post Participation—Department of Nebraska
Individual Participation—Department of Nebraska
Category IV—25,000 to 39,999 members
Post Participation—Department of Kentucky
Individual Participation—Department of Kentucky
Category V—10,000 to 24,999 members
Post Participation—Department of Montana
Individual Participation—Department of Montana
Category VI—less than 10,000 members
Post Participation—Department of Rhode Island
Individual Participation—Department of Rhode Island

The competition for the Paul H. Griffith ROTC awards results are as follows:

PAUL B. GRIFFITH ROTC AWARDS

. . . Committee Chairman Munson submitted the following report:

Forty-one Departments participated in the ROTC awards program this year. A total of 6,157 medals were awarded to deserving cadets in 229 separate ROTC Units. The overall winner in the award competition is the Department of Minnesota.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our National Commander has shown us that we can have an influence on how the future of our great nation is determined in Washington. Defense spending is affected by "we the people," and "we the people" through our activities and votes must ensure that a stable and steady course is set for defense spending for the coming decade. The external threats to our national security are real and should not be taken lightly. No task is more vital than preserving the forces that keep our peace and freedom safe from aggression. We must work together with the next Congress and our next President to ensure a secure future for our country.

Mr. Commander, as a Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Ohio, I move the adoption of this report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: You heard the motion to adopt the report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and unanimously carried.

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION
AMERICAN RED CROSS

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Commander Comer, as you know, we conducted the second annual National Convention Blood drive here in Louisville on Saturday and Wednesday. I am so proud to report that the drive exceeded its goal of 150 units of blood, for a total of 163 units donated, and a potential of more than 600 beneficiaries. To honor our contributions to the American Red Cross blood program here in Louisville, I would like to call to the platform Mr. Roy Merritt, Director of Donor Resources for the Louisville American Red Cross. Mr. Merritt.

MR. ROY MERRITT
Director of Donor Resources Louisville American Red Cross

Commander and Chairman and Legionnaires, it is a great privilege that I present this award to your Commander.

"An award of excellence presented to The American Legion National Convention for their contribution and devoted service to the American Red Cross Blood Service, Louisville, Kentucky, 1988."

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much.

Mr. Merritt I would like to say to you this morning, and very briefly, that I am a veteran, a retired veteran of 20 years, number one. I have a strong belief in the blood program.

My responsibility covers Kentucky, Southern Indiana and 5 counties in Illinois. We service 63 hospitals in 64 counties on a daily basis of about 320 units.

You came to this fair city when we were having a problem with a couple of types of blood, O-negative and A-negative. You have responded to our call here and I appreciate that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

I want to tell those of you that are in this hall that had I known the enthusiasm and had I been forewarned of you coming from San Antonio to here, there was no reason why you would not have and could not have donated five to six hundred units of blood. I did not furnish you that kind of bloodmobile but I assure you, and I have assured your Commander, that I will relay to the blood program in Baltimore for your next year's convention that they should take care of you and take care of you well. God bless you and bon voyage.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much. I guess you heard last year we started this in San Antonio, Texas. When we went to San Antonio there was a shortage of certain elements of blood, when we left San Antonio there was a surplus. When we arrived here in Louisville there was a shortage of A-negative and O-negative blood. We are leaving here with a surplus. We not only leave our money in this city, but we leave our blood to represent the blood, sweat and tears of all of you great Americans and great members of The American Legion.

Also it was recognized in the acceptance and in the remarks of our distinguished guest that he served over 20 years in the military. He did not say he was a member of The American Legion. I don't know whether he is? Are you?

MR. MERRITT: No, I am not.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: There is an application in my car. Send me a check for $17.00 and I would be happy to sign you up as a member of The American Legion.

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NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER'S REMARKS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now would like to call on the National Vice Commanders of The American Legion and the National Historian in their respective order to extend to you some closing remarks.

NEALE V. CABRAL
National Vice Commander, Connecticut

Mr. Commander and distinguished guests, all you great Legionnaires out there and Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want to thank my State of Connecticut for giving me the opportunity to serve this great national organization. I want to thank Jake Comer for being able to serve with that great National Commander, and I want to thank all those States who showed me great hospitality and love for my wife and I as we traveled around, and I want to say to you Legionnaires you are the greatest bunch of people that I know and as I went through all the Departments and Districts and Posts I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm, the initiative and the great work that you all do on the local level, but most impressive of all I think is the leadership that is in this American Legion, and it's at the Post level and the County and the Department, and the future of this organization lies in your leadership, and I am sure that we have a great future. God bless you and good luck. Thank you.

W.P. "BILL" PETERSEN
National Vice Commander, Montana

This year has been a privilege, a challenge, a most enjoyable and rewarding experience, the privilege of serving this year with National Commander Jake Comer and my fine group of fellow Vice Commanders that have served with me this year, many hard working and very helpful staff members of our organization and all the other officers in our organization as well as the officers in my 15 Departments in the Western area. They did a fine job and I certainly salute them, and most of all for those many Blue Cap Legionnaires out there in my Western area that worked so very hard for their hard working leaders that have made this such a good year for us in the West. I thank every one of them, and God bless you all.

PAUL B. PHIFER, JR.
National Vice Commander, Virginia

Thank you, Commander Comer. National Adjutant Bob, my fellow officers, Delegates and distinguished guests. This year has been a memorable year for me as I traveled down through the East coast in the States that were assigned to me, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Florida, Puerto Rico, Panama and Mexico, and a very special one my own Department Virginia.

I also had the occasion this year to travel and represent your National Commander at the National High School Oratorical Contest in Denton, Texas. The Texans showed me a grand time. Also, the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

But I would like to thank one person especially this morning. Sitting here in the audience is my wife, Janet, for allowing me to do this again. Thank you for your hospitality and thanks to all you Blue Cappers as I seen you as I traveled in my assigned area. Thank you.

LEON REED
National Vice Commander, Arkansas

Thank you, Commander Comer. I want to express my great appreciation to my Department of the State of Arkansas who were so kind to endorse me for this position a few years ago when I was first endorsed. I had hoped to serve with that great Commander Jimmy Dean of Mississippi, who is still a great personal friend of mine, but, Jimmy, I have got to say this, I know you are a good old boy from Mississippi and I like you very much, but in retrospect I realize it was a great honor and privilege for me to serve with that great good old boy from Massachusetts, Jake Comer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: And remember I'm the guy that talks funny from Massachusetts.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER REED: Commander Comer has been so great, so kind and so gracious to all of us this year as his wife Eileen has been so good to we Vice Commanders and all of us, that you couldn't help but like that good old boy, and it has been a great honor for me to serve with Jake Comer.

I want to thank all of the States, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky for the great hospitality that they showed me. To the people in Ohio, I was there for five days and four nights during their membership drive in March, and I told them that if they would reach 143,000 members I would see that they got personal recognition from the platform, and at this time I want to give the great Department of Ohio that recognition because they did exceed 143,000 members before that membership date.

Their great Commander Rick Cherry and a great person Chet Stellar that country auctioneer that supervised a lot of the Districts that I attended. They were super, and I want to especially thank Jerry Moore for escorting me for five days and four nights and he is now the Department Commander from Ohio, and with the work that he had done last year I am sure that Ohio will be at the top again this year.

I want to again thank my Department for being near the top in membership this year and I appreciate that very much.

My wife is on the platform with me today and I want to express my appreciation to her for the tolerance she extended to me this year in serving.

I want to thank the National Staff for all of the great work they did in helping we National Vice Commanders, and, particularly, I want to thank Bob Spanogle for his great help, particularly and especially I want to thank my Liaison Officer Jack Williams for being such a great help to me. Thank you very much. I will now probably receive a promotion by going back to my Post and being Post Adjutant. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Leon, and I know that Mississippi is not upset with that faux pas because all of them in Mississippi know that they were the ones that taught me how to say automobile instead of cawr.

While some of them were introduced, as they should have been, there are all their lovely wives who have taken an awful lot of their time of work for all of you. Janet Phifer, Faye Cabral, would you stand and take a bow.

Now I would like to introduce a great man at the microphone would you take a microphone to my right, a hot one, please, because he needs all the help he can get as we have known all along. He is a little different. He is a great guy, Joe Frank.

JOE FRANK, JR.
National Vice Commander, Missouri

Thank you, Commander Comer, and fellow Delegates. It is certainly my privilege to come and speak to you as we end the Convention and go into a new year in The American Legion, but I am here to say thanks to all of you for what you have done for me, especially the Departments I have served. I must say I am thankful to them for what they have done for The American Legion. I hear a lot of people coming around and asking me this question from these particular Departments, "Joe, are you coming back?" And you better believe I will be back.

It may be on my own money but I will be back because I have met a lot of fine, fine people, and one thing I learned in The American Legion besides a great opportunity to serve, during my travels is that basically we are all the same. We are Legionnaires. Maybe the accents are a little different but we are all basically the same.

I do want to thank you and Commander Comer for your great leadership. We are going into a new Legion year, as I mentioned earlier. Let's support the new Commander, as I know you will, and support that Administration. God bless you and God bless America, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Joe. I know Joe has a great supporter, his lovely wife Barbara.

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NATIONAL HISTORIAN'S REMARKS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would like to bring to the platform the National Historian, a long time friend of mine, serving in 1975-76 together, Eddie Brennen from Illinois.

EDWARD F. BRENNEN
National Historian, Illinois

Thank you, Commander Comer. National Adjutant Robert Spanogle, my fellow officers, Delegates and Alternates.

I want to thank all my fellow comrades who served this year as historians. I hope and I know you had plenty of information and material to put in these books, my only concern is

I hope that the Department winners will be able to get them in for National judging which will be held in October prior to our NEC meeting.

I also would like to thank NADHAL, the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion for all they did for me this year, and last, but not least, I would personally like to thank my own Department of Illinois for the confidence they had in me by submitting my name. I hope I have fulfilled that promise. Thank you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Thank you very much, Eddie, to you and your wife Dorothy appreciation from all of us for a job well done.

PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL HISTORIAN PIN

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would like to present to you, your Past National Historian's Pin, thank you.

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PINS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Will the Vice Commanders come forward. Equally the Past National Vice Commanders Pins are given to five wonderful individuals that served this Commander with great distinction and admiration. I owe so much to all of you, we did it as a family.

PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN PIN

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: And the National Chaplain, not to be outdone, Past National Chaplain, a great guy, your Past National Chaplain's Pin.

PRESENTATION OF PAST SERGEANT-AT-ARMS PIN

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Will Timothy Ryan come forward, a man from my own State of Massachusetts that has served me not only this year but for the past 25 years or more. He is an outstanding individual, your Past National Sergeant-At-Arms Timothy Ryan. Thank you, Tim.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now call on National Vice Commander Neale Cabral, will you please take the gavel and preside over the next order of business.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO NATIONAL COMMANDER JOHN P. "JAKE" COMER AND HIS WIFE EILEEN

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NEALE V. CABRAL, Connecticut: Commander Comer, before we proceed I wonder if you and Eileen would come up here. The National Vice Commanders would like to make a presentation.

Jake, a year ago you were elected National Commander and we were elected National Vice Commanders. I'm only going to say it was a great honor to serve with you. We couldn't have had a better National Commander, and just a small appreciation of our love and affection for both you and Eileen we would like to present this gift to you and we would like you to open it, please.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: This is a beautiful silver tray that says, "John P. 'Jake' Comer, National Commander in 1987-1988."

These are beautiful mint julep cups and on each one of them is the name of the National Vice Commander and his lovely wife.

Along with that then there is also one which is singular with the wives of the five National Vice Commanders on this one here too. Beautiful, beautiful. On behalf of Eileen and I, gentlemen and ladies, thank you very much.

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PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE AND COLORS TO OUTGOING NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CABRAL: Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to preside over a very special moment in this National Convention, the point at which we pause to present our National Commander a plaque and the colors of his year in office.

At this time I would like to call on Past National Commander Bill Rogers and the Chairman of Naval Affairs Committee John J. Wrenn of Massachusetts to do the honors. Past National Commander Rogers.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER WILLIAM J. ROGERS, Maine: Thank you very much Neale. Distinguished guests and fellow Delegates to this Convention. I am privileged this morning to make a presentation to Commander Comer. Jake, your year has been such a great impact and has had such a great impact on The American Legion and America, and I would like at this moment to take a little bit of personal privilege to be a little bit provincial, and on behalf of all of us in New England, thank you. We are very proud of you.

This beautiful bronze plaque that I am presenting to you is certification of your service as National Commander in 1987 and '88 and will be a constant reminder of the thousands of miles that you have traveled this year and last year and the many Legion and Auxiliary members who served with you. The Plaque reads, "To National Commander John P. 'Jake' Comer elected by the National Convention to serve the high office of National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1987-88. In appreciation of his dedicated leadership, in recognition of his devoted service to God and Country, and in token of the high esteem of his fellow Legionnaires."

This citation is presented to him by authority of the National Executive Committee, given on this eighth day of September, 1988 before the Delegates assembled at the 70th National Convention of The American Legion, and, Jake, I will try to present this to you without breaking it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I just want to thank Bill Rogers, a fellow Past National Commander, or soon to be at any rate, from the Department of Maine who represents all of New England.

I have said all through my two years campaigning in my year, I could not have done it without the total cooperation of all of us in New England working together. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER ROGERS: Now it is my privilege to present to you a great friend of Jake's from the Department of Massachusetts, John Wrenn.

CHAIRMAN JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts: Thank you, Neale. Will the Delegates of this Convention please rise.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the ceremonial Color Guard is The American Legion National Champion Color Guard, the Cheverly Troopers of Post 108, Cheverly, Maryland.

Color Guard. Prepare to retrieve the colors of the National Commander.

MR. WRENN, Massachusetts: A little more than a year ago, you were elected to the Office of National Commander.

In that time, you have maintained a travel schedule that is unprecedented, visiting with Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, the Eight and Forty, and countless others, as you worked to make everyone an integral member of "Comer's Clan."

You have worked to assure the future of America's children and represented the men and women of The American Legion in the councils of government, both high and low, throughout this land. The American Legion is better for your efforts, and the nation, too, is a better nation than before.

For all your good works, we salute you.

This beautiful set of colors, the free-flying flag of our beloved country, and the distinctive red banner of the National Commander are visible reminders of your year of service, and will serve as mementos of what I am sure will remain in your memory as one of the best years of your life.

I know, because you have told us so and because we have seen them in action, that the men and women of the Department of Massachusetts and the members of your family, share with you the pride of accomplishment these colors and this plaque represent.

Please accept them as tokens of our appreciation to you for your dedication to God and Country.

On behalf of the nearly 3 million men and women of The American Legion, we present them to you with not only our thanks, but with our love, as well.

Mr. Commander, well done.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Color Guard, retire my colors.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Past National Commander Rogers, my very close and dear friend, John Wrenn and his wife Mary here with me on the platform, fellow Legionnaires, members of my Department of Massachusetts, our guests, my family, ladies and gentlemen, I assure you that I will protect the colors that you have presented to me, because they represent two of the most important elements of my life on earth: my love of country and my love of The American Legion.

Yes, I have traveled many miles, most of them have been with my wife, Eileen, at my side. Together we have visited with our fine family of Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and members of the Forty and Eight, the Twenty and Four, and others, and I can tell you this, I do not think I could have, or would have wanted to do this without my wife, Eileen. Now I know that, and I know that she knows that.

We traveled with a strong belief in the soundness of The American Legion's basic premise, that is found in the very first words of our Preamble: For God and Country.

I believe, as long as Americans keep their strong belief in God and Country we will persevere, no matter the challenge before us, succeed no matter what obstacle may stand in our way.

The American Legion faced challenge after challenge during the past twelve months, and we met each one head-on. As I prepare to leave this office, I know there are plenty more challenges awaiting this great organization. I know you are up to them. I know that I will continue to lend my voice and my strength to them.

I know that we will continue to be **the** voice for America's veterans, many of whom have no one else to speak for them. I know we will continue to be a strong voice for National Defense, because we, better than anyone, know first-hand the horrors of war and the terror of awaiting word from the front, continents away.

We, more than anyone else, want a world of peace, and we are willing to work for it. In the words of that beautiful music we heard during our Child Welfare Foundation celebration Tuesday morning, "We want a world just like America," and we are going to have it.

To that end, I look forward to continued hard work by all of us on behalf of the children of this country.

We call them the future of this nation. They are that. They are also the future of the world. They are the leaders who will, by our example and by our efforts, be prepared to lead the world into the 21st century armed with the values we cherish and the heritage we fought so hard to preserve.

And so, as we close, and adding a new name to an individual thought that we have this year, without changing the Constitution, but just from within, we have added "family" to the beautiful, "For God and Country." And we will continue it.

I will continue to work in the coming years with all the future leaders of this great organization, and to the next Commander, "Sparky" Gierke of North Dakota, my total support in all that he wishes to do next year, as I know where he is going, as we have just returned.

To the five Vice Commanders, and the National Historian and Chaplain, and all that are here, what an outstanding year.

To Robert Spanogle, and to all of the National Staff, and our Judge Advocate, and our Treasurer, and the Executive Directors, I could go on and on. To my Secretary, Eileen Tharp, and to everyone that has touched our lives this year, we thank you.

It is with an overwhelming sense of pride and humility that I accept these colors of the National Commander.

I will cherish them. I will protect them, and I will honor them. Honor them, in your name.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

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CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION TOTAL

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The last update of the Child Welfare Foundation, and I know the checks will still come in once we leave is now $1,147,333.03.

* * *

INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would now like and I ask my wife Eileen to come forward and my son John.

I also would like to introduce to you the rest of my family here on the platform, my two daughters Peggy and Nancy; my mother Mrs. Catherine Comer and all of my sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, Eileen's sisters and brothers, in-laws and outlaws. Would you all rise?

And lastly, a couple that have traveled throughout this year, and you came to know them, and respect them for another difficult and tough assignment, my aide, Ed Norcott and his wife, Pat.

* * *

PRESENTATION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would now like to present as the national organization presents to each Commander, two diamond pins that are worn by the National Commander throughout the year, and I have one that we have placed on a gold pendant, because it meant so much to me, to Eileen, and to all of you, but represents this whole year as National Commander, and I would like to present this to Eileen with a long lasting memory.

And now I would like to take the second one off of my blazer and present it to our only son, John J. Comer.

* * *

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Election of National Officers

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: By virtue of the authority of National Commander, I now declare it is 12:00 noon, and we will proceed with the election of National Officers, which is a special order of business for this hour.

As Chairman of this Convention I now appoint as Judge of the Election, Kenneth Hart, Adjutant of Kentucky.

As Tellers of the Election, I appoint: Vernon Useldinger, Adjutant of North Dakota; Robert Vass, Sr., Adjutant of West Virginia, and William D. Jackson, Executive Director, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

. . . H.F. (Sparky) Gierke of North Dakota was nominated and elected to the office of National Commander.

H.F. "SPARKY" GIERKE
NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

Thank you so very very much. At this time before I make some remarks, except for telling you, as I think I probably told everyone who would listen, that my theme for the coming year will be "proud to be an American."

I would like to direct your attention to the stage to my right and introduce to you two young people who sing Lee Greenwood's very beautifully, Ken Knowles and Ann Conrad. Ken and Ann, please.

. . . Ken Knowles and Ann Conrad sang Lee Greenwood's, "Proud To Be An American."

Commander Comer, fellow Delegates to this 70th Annual Convention. To all of you, particularly to the great Legionnaires and Auxiliary Members of the great Department of North Dakota, thank you. I am forever in your debt.

There are literally hundreds of you that I would like to thank individually but obviously time does not permit.

There are a few acknowledgements, however, that I would like to make. First of all, you have already heard Bob Hennessy speak of the absence of Past National Commander and our Past Governor John Davis. Certainly we all wish him well.

Another person who helped me a great deal, encouraged me, worked on my campaign committee and was a great Legionnaire in the State of North Dakota, and I know a friend of many of yours, passed away, went to the Post Everlasting last March 3rd, Past Department Commander Chuck Schraeder.

My National Executive Committeeman Bob Hennessy, thank you very much for your kind introduction. I appreciate all the efforts that you have done in my behalf over the last several years. Good friend Bruce Thiesen and Dominic DiFrancesco thank you very much for seconding my nomination.

Past National Commander John Geiger, you have honored me greatly by administering my oath to me, and Governor Allen I. Olson, thank you not only for being here but for all you have done for me and my family to make our life so much better.

I would like to thank all of the Past National Commanders of this great organization who have set a great example and have helped me all along the way with their counsel and advice.

Also thanks to Les Brown the gentleman who served as Vice Commander for North Dakota when I was Department Commander, and who now, of course, serves as the President of the Kentucky Convention Corporation. I thank him and all his people for hosting a wonderful convention.

Now, certainly we get down to number one, the family, and I would like to invite the members of my family to join me here.

. . . The members of the Gierke family joined National Commander Gierke at the podium.

There are some members of my family who are not able to be here. First of all my father, who passed away in November of 1984. I know he would be very proud because he always told me that nothing is impossible in this country. He left Wisconsin at the age of 12 after having received a total of a sixth grade education and went to North Dakota. He started working for ranchers at a dollar a day. Eventually homesteaded, married my mother and educated four children.

Also I regret that my oldest son Todd is not with me here today in this proud moment, but certainly we made a tough decision. He is a freshman this year in the Medical School at the University of North Dakota. His first exam is Monday and I told him he better stay home and take care of his business.

My mother Mary Gierke, who many of you have met, was going to come and at the end she just thought maybe she would wait and hopefully greet many of you in Bismark. She sends her best greetings and appreciation to all of you, not only for what you have done for me but also for all the courtesies that many of you have shown her over the years that she has traveled with me.

Now I would like to introduce to you three of my children who are with me, my son Scott a junior at the University of North Dakota.

My son Craig an eighth grader at Hughes Junior High in Bismark.

And my daughter Michelle a seventh grader.

And certainly last but not least I would like to introduce you to my wife Judy of over 23 years.

I appreciate very much the support that my family has been able to give me, and it is indeed a support of a little different kind, that different nature of it is necessitated by the age of my family and by my wife's new career as a registered nurse. But let me assure you that it wouldn't be possible for me to be standing here today if she hadn't been taking care of things back home and keeping things intact and acting both as a mom and dad to the kids for the last couple of years, and I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

I also would like to call up a young couple from North Dakota for an introduction. I would like to call up a member of our Department Executive Committee Kirk Twete and his wife Judy. Kirk will be traveling with me this year as my aide.

And lastly before I get into some prepared remarks I would like to acknowledge four people, and there are many others from their Department that should be acknowledged as well, but just those four, and, that is your present National Commander Jake Comer, his wife Eileen, his aide Ed Norcott and his wife Pat. We have had a tremendous amount of help from the announcement of our campaign right through today from these people, and certainly they have set a great example, and I said many times to many people. I have had many people tell me, "You have got big shoes to fill". I know that they have done a great job. We are all very proud of you, and, Jake, I salute you.

Fellow Legionnaires, I am deeply honored to stand before you as your new National Commander. This office has a long tradition of service to God and Country, a tradition which I promise to do my best during the coming year to uphold. The torch of leadership has been placed in the hands of a new generation of veterans. Like the generations of veterans before, we served our country with the fervent hope that no other generation of America would be forced to take up arms again.

I don't take that responsibility lightly. As National Commander I will represent the finest veterans organization in the world, The American Legion.

That in itself is more than most could ask in a whole lifetime. The American Legion was the strongest and most dynamic veterans organization in my home town and state, and I was extremely proud to join it.

The strength of the Legion always has been its pride, pride in what we have done and pride in what we are doing. If there is one word that will guide my year as your National Commander that word would be pride. I am very very proud, proud to be your National Commander, proud to be a Legionnaire, proud to be a Vietnam veteran, but most of all proud to be an American.

There is no better place on earth to have been born and raised than in America. Where else could a son of homesteader parents from a small town in North Dakota have the opportunity that I have had to attend an excellent school system, to play American Legion baseball, to learn about our form of government while attending Boys State, to obtain a law degree and become a lawyer and a judge, and now today to be elected National Commander of our organization whose membership is nearly five times the population of my home state.

As your National Commander I hope to instill pride in you because there is much you can be proud of as an American, as a veteran and as a Legionnaire.

As we strive to reach 3,000,000 members we must remember that there are nearly 22,000,000 Legion eligible veterans who do not know what it means, what a privilege it is to be a Legionnaire.

We must convince these veterans of the enormous contribution they can make to America working through our organization, and at the same time clearly set forth what the Legion has to offer them and their families in return.

While seeking to attract Vietnam veterans to our ranks we must never forget the fact that The American Legion is an organization of veterans from all wars. To the Legion it matters not what war you fought in, what rank you held, whether you are healthy or disabled, man or woman, black or white, a veteran is a veteran.

With regard to woman veterans. I would like to invite a good friend of mine Diane Carlson Evans from the Department of Wisconsin to join me for a moment at the podium. Diane. Isn't she a great lady.

Diane, I want to extend to you my deep appreciation for your hard work in seeking to place the statue of a woman veteran at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Let me pledge to you my most vigorous support for that project.

There are over 265,000 eligible women veterans from the Vietnam era and over 300,000 Legion eligible veterans from World War II and Korea. We want their service properly recognized, and further we want them as members of The American Legion. Thank you.

We all know that membership is a foundation upon which this great organization stands. Without members there would be no one to accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves. I believe I am being very realistic when I say we can reach our goal of 3,000,000 members. I know it is possible because The American Legion doesn't set goals and fail to reach them. This past year Commander Jake asked you to raise $1,000,000 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. You didn't disappoint him. In fact, you surpassed that goal and kept on giving almost 115% of what he asked of you. Why? Because you were challenged and wanted to prove to the world that you could meet any challenge. The American Legion Child Welfare raising was important for Commander Jake but without members it could not have been possible. Think of what we can accomplish with 3,000,000 members. That is the goal this year, building membership, building a future.

It all comes back to pride. If you are proud of what you are doing in The American Legion tell others. Tell them what it means to be a Legionnaire. Tell them how it feels to give something to your community that can't be bought. There is a strong sense of community among Legionnaires, rather a commitment to their communities. That is what makes our organization unique and far more visible than other groups.

Each of you can tell the Legion's story. I am not asking you to pressure veterans into joining The American Legion, I think we all know that tactic won't work. The key to getting our fellow veterans to become Legionnaires is by example. Make The American Legion an organization to which people want to belong. Show them the good we can do by working together. There is strength in numbers, and as our membership grows The American Legion will grow in its own ability to reach out to the citizens of America.

Each of us has a vested interest in the future of America. As veterans we served this nation to help assure that freedom and democracy would remain a solid foundation for future generations. That future belongs to the children of America, my children and your children.

The children in the youth programs of The American Legion are the finest in the world. Programs such as Boys State, the high school oratorical contest and The American Legion baseball give young people a tremendous sense of accomplishment at an age when the opportunity to learn by doing is so vital to character building. These programs offer wholesome alternatives that can help steer our children away from the heartbreaking tragedy of alcohol and drug addiction.

I can tell you from my own experiences, American Legion programs can make a difference in the lives of our young people. As I said earlier, I played American Legion baseball when in high school. The opportunity to learn teamwork and discipline has proven to be invaluable throughout my life.

In 1959 I had the privilege of attending North Dakota Boys State. My counselor was a man by the name of Allen Olson. Twenty four years later that same Allen Olson, then Governor, appointed me to the North Dakota Supreme Court, and I should tell you that he did it during The American Legion World Series which was being held in Fargo, North Dakota.

Governor, it indeed was a special privilege for me to have you escort me to the podium today. Thank you very very much.

My experiences with The American Legion's youth programs go far back beyond my years as a Legionnaire, so, I know how important they can be to our nation's young people. It is for this reason that I ask each of you to dedicate yourselves to building up the children and youth programs so we can reach more of these young men and women who need our help and guidance. By reaching out and touching their lives we help ensure their and our future, and the future of America will be brighter and happier because you cared.

America is the greatest nation on earth but it is not perfect. The American Legion was established nearly 70 years ago to help solve some of the problems we faced as a nation. As National Commander I plan to continue our efforts in getting the word out about veterans entitlements to those who need it most, the unemployed and the homeless veterans in this nation. It is a national disgrace that men and women who served their country with honor and distinction are now left to fend for themselves on the streets of America.

While my generation of veterans has come of age we can not forget the generation who came before us. America's aging veteran population is growing dramatically and so are their health care needs. The sad reality is that the VA spending has not kept pace with that trend. It is our obligation to ensure that aging veterans receive the timely quality care that they have so richly earned.

The veterans needing those facilities are the nation's poorest, oldest and sickest. They deserve the best medical care available in this country, not to be cast out into the streets.

There is a new respect today in our nation for the men and women who served in the Vietnam war. The wounds have healed and the Vietnam veteran can now stand tall and proud. Because I am a Vietnam veteran many people will be looking to The American Legion for answers to questions concerning the Vietnam era.

The American Legion has long concerned itself with the issue of American's missing in action in Southeast Asia and Korea. As we close out the decade of the 1980's I think it is time to get some straight answers about our POWs and MIAs.

This nation can't afford to enter another decade with lingering questions about government policies from the 1960's and 70's. We must do all that can be done to see that the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands and wives of the missing have the answer to the question, "Where are they now?"

I earlier stated that I would forever be in your debt for granting me this privilege. I will do my best to repay some of that debt during the coming year. During the next 12 months I will use all my energy to further the programs of The American Legion. I will stand in the halls of Congress if necessary to see that the veterans of this nation receive the entitlements that they have earned.

The American Legion will continue to keep a watchful eye on the Veterans Administration, or what will soon be called, thanks to many, many, many of you, the Department of Veteran Affairs, to ensure the veterans medical system receives the funding necessary to care for the ever increasing number of veterans needing those services.

I promise to you that in the next 12 months I will be dedicated to a long standing tradition of The American Legion, service to God and Country. We will not alter our course.

Next year in Baltimore I want each of us to be able to stand together and look back to this moment and know we have taken another step toward a brighter future for all mankind.

The time we spent serving the nation while wearing the uniform of America's armed forces may seem like ancient history, but the service to our communities, states and the nation will continue for years to come.

I challenge each of you to make this a bigger and better year for all the programs of The American Legion. All Legionnaires make a difference when they get involved, and it all comes back to pride. I want each of you to be and to show that you are proud to be a veteran, proud to be a Legionnaire, and, most of all, proud to be an American. Thank you all and God bless you.

. . . Standing applause.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

The following were elected National Vice Commanders by acclamation and without opposition: Thomas L. Gabel, Ohio; Harvey Holcomb, Texas; Archie Pozzi, Jr., Nevada; Ray G. Smith, Sr., North Carolina; and John Patrick Tipping, New York.

* * *

INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I would like to introduce to you a person that has arrived here on the stage, and I am proud to have him introduced to this beautiful audience and our Delegates to this Convention, the Commander from the Department of Kentucky, World War I veteran, Colonel Robley H. Rex. Colonel, nice to have you with us. Congratulations, World War I veteran. God love you.

* * *

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Chair now recognizes Past National Commander Dale Renaud of Iowa for the purpose of presenting the National Commander's colors to the National Commander, Sparky Gierke.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE RENAUD: Thank you, Commander Comer, Reverend Clergy, distinguished members of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, ladies and gentlemen. It is a distinct honor and personal privilege to represent the almost 3,000,000 members of The American Legion in presenting my friend, H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, the Colors of the United States of America, and the National Standard of The American Legion.

Color Guard, present the Colors.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RENAUD: Commander Sparky, on behalf of the Members of The American Legion, and with pride in our friendship, I present to you, our National Commander, your Colors. I challenge you to carry them proudly during this banner year for our organization, as you lead and promote The American Legion.

To a great extent, the future of The American Legion rests in your hands. Look often to these colors for inspiration, for purpose, and for that reminder of the trust that your fellow Legionnaires have granted you.

Mr. Commander, I salute you and wish you well.

. . . At this time the Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT GIERKE: Commander Jake, Commander Dale, it is with a great deal of pride and a great deep feeling of responsibility that I accept these colors and accept the challenge.

And let me say that it is a special privilege to have received them from you, a person whom I feel is one of the best National Commanders this organization has ever had.

Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT GIERKE: Color Guard, present the Colors of the National Commander to Post.

. . . At this time the Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

* * *

PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: It is now a tremendous privilege for me to present to this Convention, the newly elected President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Ted Galka, Alice.

ALICE GALKA
President, American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you Commander Jake, and to the new Commander Sparky, I pledge to you, as the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, to go forward with pride and to help you in all your endeavors as we work side by side for this great American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary.

On behalf of myself and nearly one million Auxiliary members, we congratulate you and wish for you a most happy year.

And I certainly look forward to working with you and with your wife Judy, and I hope we have a good relationship with you and your children. Thank you so much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT GIERKE: Thank you very very much Alice.

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECT GIERKE: Let me assure you, Alice, that we look forward to working with you very very much.

As I told you earlier that if my name were Bob, we could be Bob and Carolyn and Ted and Alice, but it didn't work out that way. But we know in The American Legion, we are not going to get the job done unless we have the full cooperation and the assistance of the Auxiliary, and we are looking forward to working with you very very much. Thank you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Mr. Adjutant, are there any further announcements?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: The National Constitution and By-Laws prescribe that the National Executive Committee will meet within 24 hours after the adjournment of this Convention.

The National Executive Committee will be held following the adjournment of this Convention in Commonwealth Convention Center Rooms 207-208.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Is there any further business to come before the Convention?

The Color Guard is in place to retire the Colors.

. . . At this time the Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: Please uncover as the outgoing National Chaplain, the very Reverend Jerry Salveson, offers the benediction.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN JERRY SALVESON: To all the Officers of this year, Commander Sparky and all the incoming officers, to all of you, thank you for the privilege of serving as your National Chaplain, and my blessings upon the new National Chaplain.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jerry Salveson, North Dakota, National Chaplain

Our Father, thank You for a great Legion year under the leadership of Commander Comer.

Thank You for a great National Convention.

Thank You for a great set of new officers prepared to lead us in service to God and Country.

We claim now, Father, Your presence and guidance for all of us, as we depart from this place and we travel to our homes. And may we continue to serve, and may it be to Your honor and glory for the good of The American Legion, and for the good of the United States of America.

We give You thanks for the assurance that we truly are one nation under God, in Jesus name, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: The Color Guard will retire the Flag of the United States. The Delegates will stand at right hand salute.

. . . The Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER COMER: I now declare this 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned sine die.

. . . At 1:50 p.m., the 70th Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned sine die.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

September 2-8, 1988
Louisville, Kentucky

The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.
WINNER—South Dakota (97.08%)

The North Carolina Trophy: Awarded annually to the Department not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.
WINNER—Philippines (96.82%)

General Henry Gourand Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department in each of five categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Departments having been the first in its receptive category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986) (Roman numerals denote categories).
WINNERS—Category I—Ohio (3-31-88), Category II—Wisconsin (6-7-88), Category III—Nebraska (8-1-88), Category IV—Maine (3-31-88), Category V—South Carolina (5-2-88), Category VI—Dist. of Columbia (3-9-88)

The O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.
WINNER: South Dakota (98.57%)

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.
WINNER: Utah (36.08%)

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of Sons of The American Legion in each of two membership size categories (I—1-999 members; II—1,000-2,000 members, III—3,000 members), each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category. (Roman numerals denote categories.
WINNERS: 1987—I—Tennessee; II—New Hampshire; III—Ohio

National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in Welfare Work for War Veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.
WINNER: Minnesota

The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the period Aug. 1 to Aug. 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.
WINNER: Colorado

The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department within the continental limits of the United States showing greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.
WINNER: Dist. of Columbia

Hearst Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports, and supporting Department narrative.
WINNER: Maryland

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.
WINNER: Maryland

Howard P. Savage Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the Baseball Team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in the American Legion "World Series."
WINNER: Ohio (George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Commission of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually to the national championship team of the World Series of American Legion Baseball.
WINNER: George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger R.B.I. Memorial Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.
WINNER: Scott Hughes, (George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio)

American Legion Baseball Player of the Year: By virtue of a special arrangement with officials of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, an American Legion Baseball player is selected each year from the competing teams at the National Finals as the "American Legion Baseball Player of the Year." This player's picture is mounted upon a plaque and placed in the Game's Shrine at Cooperstown, New York. The selection is made on the basis of playing ability, integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship and general good conduct.
WINNER: Mike Kessler, (George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Rawlings "Big Stick" Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most bases as determined by the official scores of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

WINNER: Scott Hughes, (George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Bob Feller Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player participating in the Regional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball who records the greatest number of strikeouts in such competition.

WINNER: Scott Klingenbeck, (George W. Budde Post 507, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up in the National Finals of the Baseball program.

WINNER: Pennsylvania (Charles B. Yeager Post 471, Boyertown, Pennsylvania)

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.

WINNER: 2nd Lt. Inku Hwang, Mill Creek, Washington

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman at the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.

WINNER: 2nd Lt. William W. Burkhart, Weir, Mississippi

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have excelled personally in athletics.

WINNER: Jesse Karl Moore, Laramie, Wyoming

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.

WINNER: Lt. Ron Simmons, Midlothian, Illinois

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.

WINNER: Minnesota

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.

WINNER: American Legion Band of The Tonawandas Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

The Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion Bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

WINNER: American Legion Band of The Tonawandas Post 264, Tonawanda, NY

The Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

WINNER: Cheverly Troopers Senior Color Guard, Cheverly, MD

National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually for outstanding service to the nation and to the program of The American Legion.

WINNER: Douglas Edwards, CBS News Correspondent

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

WINNER: Hon. Dionisio Ojeda

Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

WINNERS: Donald Oram, David E. Appleby, A. L. "Larry" Aubry, Kenneth Barnett, W. "Bill" Bayers, Leonard Beckthold, Ross Beatty, James Bollen, Albert Brisson, Thomas Campbell, Myrtle Campbell, R. M. Creelman, Harold E. Elliot, Edward Gillette, Albert Gould, James D. Graham, Reginal Harrod, Thomas K. Jung, A. Gordon Lardner, Robert McCullagh, Frederick W. McClelland, Delbert Mills, Kenneth G. Mossom, Donald B. Phoenix, Ronald Power, Larry Plume, Wally Reid, Fred Reade, Maurice W. Ross, John Rybak, Eric J. Sales, James Swan, John Thompson, Cecil "Red" Windsor, William A. Williams

Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, television, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies or programs.

WINNER: Billy Cox, Florida Today

National Commander's Public Relations Award: Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.

WINNER: LaPrensa, Opposition Newspaper, Nicaragua

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post reports.

WINNERS: Arizona, Delaware, Florida, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Mexico

Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans: Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and regaining of veterans.

WINNERS: Category I—Twitchel, Dothan, AL: Category II—Stran Buildings, LaGrange, GA

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Balance Sheet

	December 31	
	1987	**1986**
ASSETS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Cash	$ 301,773	$ 936,711
Accounts receivable:		
Emblem Division	88,989	84,928
Publications Division	541,507	401,801
Other	703,920	163,251
Accrued interest on investments	202,536	259,466
Inventories:		
Emblem Division	826,474	843,636
Publications Division	917,936	568,600
Prepaid expenses and supplies	267,364	211,625
Prepaid pension expense	1,337,197	661,439
Deferred membership expense	139,784	655,435
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense	2,560,916	3,250,449
Deferred revenue enhancement expense	762,736	246,947
Postal deposits	52,000	55,414
	8,703,132	8,339,702
Investments—note 2:		
Segregated for Designated Funds	10,761,606	9,897,626
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building	562,692	538,776
Other	18,212,020	18,539,981
	29,536,318	28,976,383
Property and equipment:		
Washington, D.C. real estate:		
Land	80,000	80,000
Building	1,253,521	1,231,958
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in:		
National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana	2,318,560	2,130,558
Washington, D.C. building	557,263	538,940
	4,209,344	3,981,456
Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	2,507,682	2,312,511
	1,701,662	1,668,945
	39,941,112	38,985,030
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—NOTE 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Cash	21,965	35,324
Accrued interest on investments	11,885	9,515
Investments	664,047	607,822
	697,897	652,661
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Cash	221,875	179,375
Accrued interest on investments	94,623	76,119
Investments	6,674,936	5,967,913
	6,991,434	6,223,407
	$47,630,443	$45,861,098

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit A

	December 31	
	1987	**1986**
LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		
CURRENT FUND:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,027,232	$ 738,747
Capitalized lease obligations—note 3	98,764	115,912
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	159,862	175,974
Funds in transit to The American Legion Life Insurance Trust	793,855	698,449
Deferred dues income	12,169,143	12,557,333
Deferred income—direct membership solicitation	414,201	1,178,187
Deferred revenue enhancement income	815,907	33,448
Accrued vacation benefits	340,943	354,860
Provision for health insurance liability	44,984	40,000
Other liabilities	77,137	87,193
Total liabilities	15,942,028	15,980,103
Fund balances—notes 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Oratorical Contest Fund	150,849	161,669
Other restricted funds	(20,683)	54,920
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund	8,590,946	7,728,283
The Reserve Fund	2,170,661	2,169,343
	10,891,773	10,114,215
Appropriated funds	1,541,977	1,541,977
Unappropriated	11,565,334	11,348,735
Total fund balances	23,999,084	23,004,927
	39,941,112	38,985,030
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS—NOTE 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance	697,897	652,661
	697,897	652,661
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance	6,991,434	6,223,407
	6,991,434	6,223,407
	$47,630,443	$45,861,098

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Current Fund

	Year Ended 1987	
	Unappropriated	**Appropriated Funds**
REVENUE:		
National dues	$15,573,694	
Sales of Emblem items	5,216,177	
Advertising revenue	5,141,562	
Investment income	1,578,620	
Direct membership solicitation	2,050,336	
Revenue enhancement	376,644	
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income—note 7	569,256	
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8	847,207	
Other restricted income	237,746	
Other income	1,092,451	
	32,683,693	
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	6,477,623	
Employee benefits—note 9	683,448	
Cost of sales	3,828,116	
Direct publication expenses	8,991,127	
Executive and staff travel	573,582	
Commission and committee	1,211,572	
Operational	4,579,213	
Office	3,407,201	
Occupancy	797,921	
Special projects and programs	1,784,076	
	32,333,879	
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	349,814	
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	11,348,735	$1,541,977
Interfund Transfers—note 4	(133,215)	
Fund Balances, End of Year	$11,565,334	$1,541,977

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B

Sheet 1

December 31		**1986**
Designated and Restricted Funds	**Total Current Fund**	**Total Current Fund**
	$15,573,694	$14,878,899
	5,216,177	5,251,737
	5,141,562	3,639,380
$ 730,766	2,309,386	2,555,178
	2,050,336	1,208,667
	376,644	715,765
	569,256	444,015
109,000	956,207	1,208,882
54,933	292,679	287,508
	1,092,451	662,474
894,699	33,578,392	30,852,505
	6,477,623	6,165,311
	683,448	651,460
	3,828,116	3,480,522
	8,991,127	8,105,292
	573,582	585,142
	1,211,572	911,495
	4,579,213	3,864,779
	3,407,201	1,993,086
	797,921	799,552
250,356	2,034,432	1,567,677
250,356	32,584,235	28,124,316
644,343	994,157	2,728,189
10,114,215	23,004,927	20,276,738
133,215		
$10,891,773	$23,999,084	$23,004,927

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Designated and Restricted Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Designated Funds	
	The Restricted Fund	**The Reserve Fund**
REVENUE:		
Investment income	$ 729,448	$ 1,318
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8		
Restricted contributions		
	729,448	1,318
EXPENSE:		
Special projects and programs		
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	729,448	1,318
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	7,728,283	2,169,343
Interfund Transfers—note 4	133,215	
Fund Balances, End of Year	$8,590,946	$2,170,661

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B

Sheet 2

Restricted Funds		
Oratorical Contest Fund	**Other Restricted Funds**	**Total Designated And Restricted Funds**
		$ 730,766
$109,000		109,000
	$ 54,933	54,933
109,000	54,933	894,699
119,820	130,536	250,356
(10,820)	(75,603)	644,343
161,669	54,920	10,114,215
		133,215
$150,849	$(20,683)	$10,891,773
		(Exhibit B Sheet 1)

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Cash Flows—Increase (Decrease) in Cash
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Current Fund	Overseas Graves Decoration Trust
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	$ 994,157	$ 45,236
Add: Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash	204,111	
Certain working capital transactions:		
Accounts receivable	(684,436)	
Accrued interest on investments	56,930	(2,370)
Inventories	(332,174)	
Prepaid expenses and supplies	(731,497)	
Deferred expenses	689,395	
Postal deposits	3,414	
Accounts payable	288,485	
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	(16,112)	
Funds in transit to American Legion Life Insurance Trust	95,406	
Deferred income	(369,717)	
Accrued vacation	(13,917)	
Provision for health insurance liability	4,984	
Other liabilities	(10,056)	
Cash provided by operations	178,973	42,866
Investing activities:		
Additions to property and equipment	(236,828)	
Net (increase) in investments	(559,935)	(56,225)
	(796,763)	(56,225)
Financing activities:		
Principal payments under capital lease obligation	(17,148)	
Increase (Decrease) in cash	(634,938)	(13,359)
Cash, Beginning of the Year	936,711	35,324
Cash, End of the Year	$ 301,773	$ 21,965

Paid-Up For Life Membership Fees	**1987 Total**	**1986 Total**
$ 768,027	$ 1,807,420	$ 3,577,846
	204,111	206,802
(18,504)	(684,436)	(141,919)
	36,056	156,999
	(332,174)	174,350
	(731,497)	(750,079)
	689,395	(1,628,430)
	3,414	(1)
	288,485	(305,423)
	(16,112)	(13,417)
	95,406	122,140
	(369,717)	804,091
	(13,917)	38,620
	4,984	(5,000)
	(10,056)	2,241
749,523	971,362	2,238,820
	(236,828)	(358,932)
(707,023)	(1,323,183)	(1,949,014)
(707,023)	(1,560,011)	(2,307,946)
	(17,148)	(8,118)
42,500	(604,797)	(77,244)
179,375	1,151,411	1,228,654
$ 221,875	$ 545,613	$ 1,151,410

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

General: The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service of their country."

Basis of Presentation: The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its acccounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1986 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances—Current Fund and Statement of Cash Flows are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1987 amounts.

Accounts Receivable: The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories: Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments: Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Property and Equipment: Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expended when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D.C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Depreciation expense amounted to $204,111 in 1987 and $206,802 in 1986.

Income: Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan: The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax: The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2—INVESTMENTS (Current Fund):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1987		1986	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U.S. Government obligations....	$ 8,320,503	$ 8,501,685	$ 8,619,467	$ 9,349,236
Accrued interest—restricted	238,585	238,585	276,818	276,818
Money market accounts	2,202,000	2,202,000	340,00	340,000
Uninvested cash	518	518	661,341	661,341
	10,761,606	10,942,788	9,897,626	10,627,395
Segregated for Washington, D.C. building:				
U.S. Government obligations....	562,692	558,658	538,776	547,472
Other:				
U.S. Government obligations....	14,862,020	14,940,676	16,689,981	16,735,505
Certificates of deposit	1,300,000	1,300,000	900,000	900,000
Repurchase Agreements........	2,050,000	2,050,000	950,000	950,000
	18,212,020	18,290,676	18,539,981	18,585,505
Total investments	$29,536,318	$29,792,122	$28,976,383	$29,760,372

NOTE 3—CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

The Legion has entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for the rental of a copier. The Legion has an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the original lease term at its fair market value. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased copier. Cost and accumulated amortization of the capitalized lease was $128,395 and $42,798 at December 31, 1987 and $128,395 and $21,399 at December 31, 1986. Future minimum payments on the copier lease, together with the present value of the payments, is as follows:

Years ending December 31:	
1988............	$ 31,397
1989............	31,397
1990............	31,397
1991............	31,397
1992............	2,618
Total future minimum payments........	128,206
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 13%).....	29,442
Present value of future minimum payments	$ 98,764

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately $129,000 in 1987 and $115,000 in 1986.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1989. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated $288,000 in 1987 and $313,000 in 1986. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1993.

NOTE 4—RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's net income to the Restricted Fund. The effect of this for 1987 is $133,215.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

NOTE 5—APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers during 1987 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1987 and 1986 were as follows:

Computer Reserve	$ 500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000
Totals	$1,541,977

NOTE 6—NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1987 are as follows:

	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected		$ 722,339
Investment income	$ 58,921	721,619
	58,921	1,443,958
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn		544,245
Decoration of graves:		
European Theatre	13,185	
Philippine Islands	500	
Administrative expense		109,101
Trust fees		22,585
	13,685	675,931
Excess of revenues over expenses	45,236	768,027
Fund balances, January 1, 1987	652,661	6,223,407
Fund balances, December 31, 1987	$697,897	$6,991,434

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1987		1986	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	$ 664,047	$ 667,027	$ 607,822	$ 640,013
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U.S. Government obligations	$4,002,969	$4,132,627	$3,399,281	$3,648,562
Money market accounts	1,118,043	1,118,043	1,329,679	1,329,679
Common stocks	1,553,924	1,736,773	1,238,953	1,588,828
Total investments	$6,674,936	$6,987,443	$5,967,913	$6,567,069

NOTE 7—AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $1,897,584 at December 31, 1987, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to $569,256 in 1987 and $715,765 in 1986.

NOTE 8—LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurors, which aggregate to $5,723,016 as of December 31, 1987, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.
(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
(d) To make refunds to the participants.
(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1987, $879,850 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1988.

NOTE 9—PENSION PLAN:

During 1986, the Legion adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, "Employers' Accounting for Pensions" (SFAS 87).

The funded status of the plan at the end of the year was:

	December 31	
	1987	1986
Actuarial present value of plan benefits:		
Vested	$(9,763,724)	$(10,419,009)
Nonvested	(1,251,592)	(1,247,315)
Accumulated benefit obligation	(11,015,316)	(11,666,324)
Effect of future salary increases	(126,300)	(44,391)
Projected benefit obligation	(11,141,616)	(11,710,715)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stock, bonds, and U.S. securities	18,592,977	18,233,926
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation	7,451,361	6,523,211
Unrecognized net gain	(2,102,550)	(1,556,796)
Unrecognized net asset at end of year	(4,011,614)	(4,304,976)
Prepaid pension expense	$ 1,337,197	$ 661,439

Net pension expense (credit) for 1987 and 1986 included the following components:

	1987	1986
Service cost—benefits earned during the year	$ 497,694	$ 455,294
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	878,428	823,909
Actual return on assets	(699,782)	(2,889,347)
Net amortization and deferral:	(976,058)	1,417,320
Net pension expense (credit)	$(299,718)	$(192,824)

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 8.25 and 5%, respectively, for 1987 and 7.75 and 5%, respectively, for 1986. The assumed rate of return on plan assets during 1987 and 1986 was 7.5 and 7.75%, respectively.

NOTE 10—LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

Supplementary Information

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue And Expenses by Function

Year Ended December 31, 1987

	General		
	National Officers, Commissions And Committees	Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis)	External Activities (primarily Washington, D.C.)
Revenue:			
National dues		$ 7,779,777	$ 713,551
Sales of Emblem items			
Advertising revenue			
Investment income		1,578,620	
Direct membership solicitation		2,050,336	
Revenue enhancement		376,644	
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income		170,777	398,479
Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund		741,159	58,620
Other restricted income		237,746	
Other income	$ 5,000	648,564	53,026
	5,000	13,583,623	1,223,676
Expenses:			
Salaries	246,380	2,316,513	1,738,541
Employee benefits		683,448	
Cost of sales			
Direct publication expenses			
Executive and staff travel	252,967	159,294	84,149
Commission and committee	1,211,572		
Operational	7,882	4,086,848	88,626
Office	2,171	2,718,337	138,797
Occupancy		288,875	
Special projects and programs	63,004	373,349	371,035
	1,783,976	10,626,664	2,421,148
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	$(1,778,976)	$ 2,956,959	$(1,197,472)

Schedule 1

Functions			**Self-Supporting Functions**		
Administration		**Total General Functions**	**Emblem Division**	**Publications Division**	**Total All Functions**
Indianapolis	**Washington, D.C.**				
		$ 8,493,328		$ 7,080,366	$15,573,694
			$5,216,177		5,216,177
				5,141,562	5,141,562
		1,578,620			1,578,620
		2,050,336			2,050,336
		376,644			376,644
		569,256			569,256
$ 47,428		847,207			847,207
		237,746			237,746
120,331	$ 6,000	832,921	205,937	53,593	1,092,451
167,759	6,000	14,986,058	5,422,114	12,275,521	32,683,693
830,302	461,802	5,593,538	500,423	383,662	6,477,623
		683,448			683,448
36,536		36,536	3,263,383	528,197	3,828,116
				8,991,127	8,991,127
18,045	12,911	527,366	24,463	21,753	573,582
		1,211,572			1,211,572
75,058	30,142	4,288,556	235,857	54,800	4,579,213
72,099	70,855	3,002,259	245,900	159,042	3,407,201
270,464	158,529	717,868	28,436	51,617	797,921
(99,709)	125,056	832,735	368,102	583,239	1,784,076
1,202,795	859,295	16,893,878	4,666,564	10,773,437	32,333,879
$(1,035,036)	$(853,295)	$(1,907,820)	$ 755,550	$ 1,502,084	$ 349,814

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial Statements to Internal Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Total Current Fund
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses— Internal Financial Statements:	
Page 2	$349,814
Add:	
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials—principally The Restricted Fund—exhibit B, sheet 2 (page 7)	644,343
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses— Audited Financial Statements—	
exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 5)	$994,157

American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation

Robert Charles Smith (LA) President

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately $5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana).

	December 31, 1987	December 31, 1986	December 31, 1985	December 31, 1984	December 31, 1983
Total assets	$7,437,287	$7,410,175	$7,351,453	$7,340,044	$7,314,933
Investments—at cost	$7,372,598	$7,325,349	$7,260,235	$7,250,912	$7,243,536
Interest income	$ 585,017	$ 628,683	$ 639,808	$ 626,405	$ 616,218
Expenses	29,278	25,706	31,237	27,469	23,225
Excess income over expense	$ 555,739	$ 602,977	$ 608,571	$ 598,936	$ 592,993
Funds transferred to The American Legion	$ 577,471	$ 573,282	$ 615,096	$ 580,612	$ 585,690
Average yield on book value of investments	8.29%	8.47%	8.90%	8.92%	8.80%

THE AMERICAN LEGION 70TH ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

Under the leadership of National Commander John P. Comer and with the support of 2.8 million members in more than 16,000 posts throughout the Nation and overseas, the Legion has completed another year of rich and rewarding service to America and its veterans.

The American Legion national headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, an office is maintained in Washington, D.C., housing those organizational functions requiring a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government. The American Legion's Magazine publisher also is located in Indianapolis, and the editor and editorial staff are located in The American Legion's Indianapolis offices.

The National Commander's report is published herein as a part of the Convention proceedings. Reports of the other national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary are included. During this action-packed year the two organizations, true to their tradition, provided vital leadership to the Nation and contributed significantly to the preservation of its institutions. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward with confidence to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE,
National Adjutant.

EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The American Legion shall be organized in departments and these in turn in posts. There shall be one department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one department in each territory in insular possession of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of departments already established.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at his time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any said periods; provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The legislative body of The American Legion shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said Convention and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid, and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by the Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be the majority of the registered delegates present from his Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials after his registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No person shall be eligible for reelection to the Office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by elections by the National Executive Committee, and any member of the American Legion in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy. Provided, however, that no past National Commander or past National Vice-Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions to The American Legion, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice-Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to vote only in the absence of the committeeman.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Hamilton Fish, New York
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
George N. Craig, Indiana
Erle Cocke, Jr., Maryland
J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois
Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
Martin B. McKneally, New York
William R. Burke, California
Charles L. Bacon, Missouri
Hon. Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson, Virginia
L. Eldon James, Virginia
John E. Davis, North Dakota
William E. Galbraith, Missouri
J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma
Alfred P. Chamie, California
John H. Geiger, Illinois
Joe L. Matthews, Texas
Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland
James M. Wagonseller, Ohio
Harry G. Wiles, Kansas
William J. Rogers, Maine
Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana
John M. Carey, Florida
Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana
Michael J. Kogutek, New York
Jack W. Flynt, Texas
Al Keller, Jr., Illinois
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland
Dale L. Renaud, Iowa
James P. Dean, Mississippi
John P. "Jake" Comer, Massachusetts

National Executive Committeemen

Floyd E. Fann, Alabama
William M. Bishop, Alaska
Julian F. Santos, Arizona
Lawrence E. Fisher, Arkansas
Bruce Thiesen, California
Mrs. H. Rena Chaplain, Canada
Charles Pat Smith, Colorado
Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut
Donavon L. Orth, Delaware
Richard R. Giasson, D.C.
George L. Derrick, Florida
Meerwyn M. "Mike" Beavers, France
W.D. Harrell, Georgia
Robert J. Conrad, Hawaii
Marion P. Johnson, Idaho
James V. Kissner, Illinois
Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana
Leo Marnard, Iowa
Frank C. Bottigliero, Italy
U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas
Joseph K. Goodness, Kentucky
Paul M. Severson, Louisiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Earl C. Nuttall, Maryland
John J. Mulkern, Massachusetts
Thomas L. Hogan, Mexico
Andrew A. Templeton, Michigan
Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota
Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi
Jerome N. Roach, Missouri
C. Hal Manson, Montana
Roger L. Wild, Nebraska
Charles F. Langel, Nevada
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire
James H. Hall, New Jersey
Robert W. Durand, New Mexico
Donald E. Klein, New York
Robert A. Tart, North Carolina
Howard V. Erickson, North Dakota
Dominic V. Belloni, Ohio
Tom C. Smith, Oklahoma
T. Les Galloway, Oregon
Dan McDonald, Panama Canal
Joseph V. Adams, Pennsylvania
Ernesto P. Golez, Philippines
Juan H. Cintron, Puerto Rico
Robert Miles, Rhode Island
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
Carl E. Levi, Tennessee
John D. Morris, Texas
William E. Christoffersen, Utah
Milton Willis, Jr., Vermont
Emmett B. Burley, Virginia
Clint Stebing, Washington
Jack T. Gribben, West Virginia
James E. Chapin, Wisconsin
David E. Nauman, Wyoming

Alternate National Executive Committeemen

James M. Harbuck, Jr., Alabama
Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
Richard H. Patton, Arizona
A.J. Forestiere, M.D., Arkansas
Charles "Chuck" Niemeyer, California
David F. Martinez, Canada
James H. McNeal, Colorado
Frank D'Angelo, Connecticut
Donald E. Neil, Delaware
Sotero Garcia, D.C.
Harry F. McDowell, Florida
Michael R. Verville, France
Horace E. Borders, Georgia
Charles Haffner, Hawaii
Frank Dalton, Idaho
Paul E. Briese, Illinois
Keith Brown, Indiana
Bernard E. Blink, Iowa
Vincent G. McAloon, Italy
Ralph "Sonny" Jones, Kansas
Silas M. Noel, Kentucky
Ralph Farris, Louisiana
William L. Ciciotte, Maine
Donald C. Messick, Maryland
Michael E. Cassidy, Massachusetts
John E. Hayes, Mexico
F. Gerrit Veldman, Michigan
Vernon K. Carstensen, Minnesota

Hershel H. Boedeker, Missouri
Donald Buffington, Montana
Jack Gilmont, Nebraska
Jack M. Howell, Nevada
George V. West, New Hampshire
Albert M. Robotti, New Jersey
Dan B. Craig, New Mexico
Vance E. Ketcham, New York
Robert J. Patton, North Carolina
Floyd V. Semenko, North Dakota
Robert L. McCarthy, Ohio
Charles LeRoy Brown, Oklahoma
Robert D. Scott, Oregon
William T. Kelley, Panama Canal
Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
Victoriano Pasiliao, Philippines
Juan T. Rivera, Puerto Rico
Walter R. Perry, Sr., Rhode Island
John L. Ferguson; Sr., South Carolina
Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota
Ralph M. Stovall, Tennessee
Lee Guy, Texas
Clarence W. Jones, Utah
James G. Brouillette, Vermont
Murray B. York, Virginia
Samuel B. White, Washington
Eugene T. Billmeyer, West Virginia
E. Lawson Schwope, Wyoming

Commission, Committee, and Employees

The National Executive Committee, upon nomination by the National Commander, appoints the following standing commissions: National Americanism Commission, National Commission on Children and Youth, National Convention Commission, National Economic Commission, National Foreign Relations Commission, National Internal Affairs Commission, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion Magazine Commission, National Public Relations Commission, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and National Security Commission.

The National Executive Committee provides for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of The American Legion, and prescribes their duties and emoluments.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

NEALE V. CABRAL, Connecticut

I was very honored to be elected National Vice Commander at the 69th National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and extremely proud to have served with my neighbor from Massachusetts, the National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer, as a member of Comer's Clan.

The 10 Departments in the Northeast Region set enviable membership records with several all-time highs and they were among the leaders in supporting the National Commander's goal of raising $1 million for the Child Welfare Foundation.

Visiting New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine was a most rewarding experience. Initiative, enthusiasm, and hospitality was most evident at the post, district, and department level. I found post members wanted to know more about this great American Legion; were proud of their achievements; and wanted to share their ideas with others.

From the day of my election, I was constantly involved in the affairs of The American Legion. The Northeast may be a concentrated area but from Hogus, Maine, where Interstate 95 begins to the southern tip of Delaware, to the western section of Pennsylvania, and hence north to Buffalo, New York, is not just around the corner. I have had the pleasure of visiting all 10 Departments at least once; eight twice, and the remainder three or more times.

Brainstorming, legislative sessions, leadership conferences, and membership round-ups were some of the highlights of my year. Others include: the National Commander's Homecoming in Boston; district meetings in New Hampshire; membership conferences in Maine, Delaware, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; the Washington Conference; National Executive Committee meetings; an executive board meeting in Pennsylvania; testimonials in New England; Veterans Day in Barre, Vermont; Boys State in Connecticut; The Naval Academy in Annapolis; golf tournaments; parade marshal; keynote speaker; Memorial Day and Flag Day ceremonies; state conventions in eight departments; the great honor of arranging the National Commander's visit in Connecticut with the review of the Cadet Corps at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy; and finally the greatest honor of all, representing the National Commander at The American Legion Baseball World Series in Middletown, Connecticut.

Since September of 1987, there has not been one week that has passed without my involvement in The American Legion. My travels broadened my understanding of the dedication of the many fine Legionnaires in this great organization. I feel sad, however, to note that we do not receive the publicity we so richly deserve for the many, outstanding contributions the American Legion makes in the local community.

I feel the future success lies in post visitations for it is there we can see and share ideas. Finally, as I observed the leadership in the posts and various departments, I feel we need to support and encourage these veterans of Korea and Vietnam, for in them lie our future.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

JOE FRANK, JR., Missouri

At the final session of The American Legion's 69th annual Convention, August 27, 1987, in the Municipal Auditorium, San Antonio, Texas, I was honored by the delegates present to be elected National Vice Commander of the worlds largest veterans organization. Serving under the outstanding leadership of National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer of Massachusetts my responsibility areas was 11 departments: Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota, Indiana, and Missouri, representing a total membership of 905,868.

Briefings were held by the National Adjutant and Directors of the American Legion immediately following the post convention National Executive Committee meeting.

Official visitations were made to all 11 departments. In addition to official visitations the following departments were authorized and visited for membership purposes only: Kansas, South Dakota, and Nebraska. the Department of Minnesota was scheduled for an additional visit, but due to hospitalization I was unable to attend. Also, my stay in the hospital prevented me from attending The American Legion's spring meetings held May 4-5, 1988.

Here is a partial list of my activities as National Vice Commander:

September

September 11, 1987.—The dedication of the newly constructed VA Medical Center, Minneapolis/St. Paul.

September 15-17.—"Brainstorming Sessions" Indianapolis.

September 20-23, 1987.—Legislative meetings and National Commander Comer's presentation of The American Legion's legislative mandates to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, Washington, D.C.

October

October 2-4, 1987.—Region 5 Workshop, Indianapolis, Indiana.

October 9-11.—National Commander Comer's Homecoming, Boston, Massachusetts.

October 11-15.—Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, Indiana.

October 17-18.—Homecoming of my Department Commander, Oscar Walterman, Wentzville, Missouri.

October 23-25.—Missouri Department Fall Conference, Jefferson City, Missouri.

November

November 11th.—numerous Veterans Day observances in St. Louis.

November 11-17.—tour with Commander Comer throughout Missouri.

November 18-22.—Department of Iowa.

December

December 1-3.—National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

December 12.—National Vice Commander Leon Reed's Homecoming, Heber Springs, Arkansas.

January

January 14-17.—Annual Membership Forum, Department of Michigan.

January 24-20.—Department of Kansas.

February

February 5-7.—Mid-Winter Conference, Department of South Dakota.

February 18.—Veterans Awareness Day, Department of Minnesota.

February 20.—Winter Conference, Mandan, North Dakota.

February 29-March 2.—Washington Conference, Washington, DC

March

March 7-10.—visit to Strategic Air Command Headquarters, Department of Nebraska.

March 15 through the weekend.—Metro St. Louis area commemorating the American Legion's Birthday.

April

April 14.—Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery Chapel, Easter Sunrise Services.

May

Annual Department Convention, Department of Kansas.

May 24th.—Convocation Ceremonies, United States Military Academy, West Point.

June

June 24-26.—Department of Nebraska State Convention, Omaha, Nebraska.

July

July 13-14.—Annual State Convention, Department of Illinois, Springfield.

July 15-17, Annual State Convention, Department of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

September

I attended the 70th annual National Convention of the American Legion in Louisville, Kentucky September 2-8, 1988.

In conclusion, I might point out that it would take many pages to report all a National Vice Commander experiences throughout the year. My election to this high office is a great honor to the great many people who gave me this opportunity and for that I say thanks. The National Staff was outstanding and very helpful to me during my tenure as National Vice Commander. I'm very honored to have had the privilege of serving the worlds largest veterans organization as a National Vice Commander, and will cherish the many memories for years to come. But most of all, I will continue to serve this great organization, no matter what the capacity.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

W.P. "Bill" Petersen, Montana

I was elected to the prestigious office of National Vice Commander of The American Legion at the final session of the 69th National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, August 27, 1987. At that time I and other Vice Commanders were briefed by members of the Headquarters staff and assigned our areas of responsibility. My area was the 14 Western States and Canada, including Hawaii and the Philippines. I shall always be humbly proud of this great honor.

My first Department visit was to the Leadership Workshop in Boise, Idaho.

From Boise I went to Indianapolis where the Vice Commanders were given a three day "brainstorming session," to familiarize us with the methods, available resources, and suggestions for a successful year.

The day after returning to my home in Billings, Montana, I drove to Miles City, Montana, to attend and take part in a POW/MIA ceremony.

Here is a partial list of additional visits I made while serving as National Vice Commander:

September

September 20, Legislative Meeting, House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, Washington, D.C.

September 25.—Membership Workshop, Buffalo, Wyoming.

October

October 2.—Leadership Workshop, Las Vegas, Nevada.

October 9.—Homecoming for National Commander Comer, Boston, Massachusetts.

October 11-15.—Fall Conference of the Commanders and Adjutants and the National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.

November

November 6.—Fall Conference, Department of Montana.

November 11.—Veterans Day Banquet, Powell, Wyoming.

November 13-15.—Department Executive Committee Meeting, Department of Idaho.

November 29-30.—National Headquarters for membership calls, Indianapolis, Indiana.

December

December 5-7.—Executive Meeting, Department of Utah.

January

January 7-11.—Membership Roundup, Department of Arizona.

January 21-23.—Executive Meeting, Department of Idaho.

January 29.—Mid-winter Conference, Yakima, Washington.

February

February 26-28.—Powder Horn Ski Clinic, Grand Junction, Colorado.

February 28.—Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.

March
March 10-11.—Official Visit, Department of Alaska.
March 16.—Official Visit, Department of Oregon.
March 25-27.—Semi-annual Executive Committee Meeting, Department of California.

April
April 15.—Leadership and Membership Planning Meeting, Montrose, Colorado.
April 16.—District 13 Meeting, Grand Junction, Colorado.
April 23-24.—District 6 and District 7 Meetings, Anaconda and Bozeman, Montana.

May
May 3-5.—Spring National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.
May 18.—Department of Canada Convention, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
May 30.—Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

June
June 22-24.—Department Convention, Tucson, Arizona.
June 25-26.—Department Convention, Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

July
July 6-10.—Department Convention, Bozeman, Montana.
July 14.—Department Convention, Post Falls, Idaho.
July 22-23.—Business Meetings, Laughlin, Nevada.

At the National Convention I chaired the Western States Caucus after the first convention meeting adjourned, where a National Vice Commander was endorsed by that group.

It would be irresponsible of me if I failed to mention how much I have been helped by the staff of National Headquarters. I also am deeply indebted to each of the Commanders, their Membership Chairmen and the many District Commanders and Post Commanders that have worked steadily and fruitfully to make our membership results an outstanding success. They are the ones who made it possible.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

PAUL B. PHIFER, JR., Virginia

It was an honor and privilege to be elected one of the Five National Vice Commanders at our National Convention held in San Antonio, Texas. Upon my election, I affirmed my dedication to the spirit of our great Organization, my devotion to emphasizing the virtues of family and common interest and to pursuing the inspiration of our Preamble.

I was assigned the Departments of: Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mexico, District of Columbia, Panama and Puerto Rico.

The following is a list of events and visits that I have participated in since my election in Texas:

August
August 29-30.—Attended the National Regional Baseball Tournament in Frederick, Maryland.

September
September 15-17.—Briefing and brainstorming with National Commander Comer, the other National Vice Commanders and Staff in Indianapolis, Indiana.
September 18-20.—Region 3 Leadership Workshop, Orlando, Florida.
September 21-23.—Washington Office briefing, Washington, D.C., and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearings.
September 25-27.—Region 2 Leadership Workshop, Richmond, Virginia.

October
October 9-11.—National Commander's Homecoming, Boston, Massachusetts.
October 12-15.—Commission and National Executive Meetings, Indianapolis, Indiana.
October 17.—Department Commander of Virginia's Homecoming, Culpeper, Virginia.
October 23-25.—Department of Virginia, Fall Conference, Arlington, Virginia.
October 30-November 1.—Department of North Carolina, Fall Conference, Ashville, North Carolina.

November
November 6-8.—Department of South Carolina, Fall Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
November 29-December 1.—Membership calls from Indianapolis, Indiana.

December

December 10, Official visit to McGuire Veterans Hospital, Richmond, Virginia.

January

January 5.—Official visit to the Naval Shipyards in Norfolk, Virginia. Visited with Commander Cobb, U.S. Navy, on the USS Coontz, had lunch and a tour of his ship. Next toured the newest Aircraft Carrier, *Theodore Roosevelt.*

January 22-24.—Department of West Virginia, Mid-Winter Conference, Charleston, West Virginia.

February

February 29-March 2.—Washington, D.C. Conference in Washington, D.C.

March

March 11-13.—Official visit to the Department of Puerto Rico.

March 18-20.—Membership Aerial Roundup, Department of Florida .

March 26.—Guest Speaker, Birthday Banquet, Post 16, Lynchburg, Virginia.

April

April 8-10.—Official visit to District of Columbia, Spring Meetings.

April 14-15.—Guest Speaker, National Oratorical Banquet and represented National Commander at the Oratorical Finals, Denton, Texas.

April 22-23.—Participated in Department of Virginia, Membership Roundup and Official Visit to Hampton Veterans Hospital with Department Commander, Hampton, Virginia.

May

May 3-5.—National Executive Committee Meetings, Indianapolis, Indiana.

May 13-15.—Department of Maryland, Spring Conference, Ocean City, Maryland.

May 16-18.—Presented award at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut.

May 28.—Dumfries Post 28, Guest Speaker and Installation of Incoming Officers, Dumfries, Virginia.

June

June 2-5.—Department of Florida, State Convention, Tampa, Florida.

June 7.—Tappahannock Post 64, Guest Speaker and Installation of New Officers, Tappahannock, Virginia.

June 24-25.—Presented awards to inductees to the Hall of Fame, American Legion's Boys State of Virginia, Lynchburg, Virginia.

July

July 15-17.—Department of Virginia, State Convention, Richmond, Virginia.

July 22-24.—Department of Georgia, State Convention, Albany, Georgia.

Serving this year and traveling in all parts of our great nation as National Vice Commander provided memories, I shall cherish forever. Working under a great leader, such as National Commander Comer, is an experience for which I shall be eternally grateful. I would like to thank the National Adjutant for the support he has given me this year. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the staff in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. for their never-ending support.

REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

LEON REED, Arkansas

It was a great honor and privilege for me to be elected National Vice Commander of The American Legion at the final session of the 69th Annual Convention, held in San Antonio, August 27, 1987.

I was assigned the states of Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi. I made an official visit to each state.

Commander Comer requested that the National Vice Commanders attend a three day briefing session at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on September 14-16. These meetings were very worthwhile as I gained an in-depth knowledge and understanding of The American Legion programs, policies and positions on other issues facing our great organization.

A partial list of my other activities as National Vice Commander are as follows:

September

September 14-16.—Legislative Conferences and presentations, Washington, D.C.

September 25-27.—National Leadership Workshop, Region 4, Mississippi.

October

October 12-15.—Commanders and Adjutants Commission and Committee Meetings and National Executive Committee Meeting.

December

December 1-3.—Membership Rally and Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

December 22-24.—Mid-Winter Conferences, Tennessee and Louisiana.

February

February 12-13.—Texas Mid-Winter Conference.

February 19-21 and March 1-2.—National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee and Washington Conference.

March

March 21-25.—Ohio Membership Drive.

April

April 8-11.—Alabama Membership Drive and participation in National Regional Oratorical Contest.

May

May 2-4.—Indianapolis Commission and Committee Meetings and National Executive Committee Meetings.

May 30.—Represented National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer at Arlington Cemetery for the laying of a wreath at the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

July

July 7-10.—Attended the State Conventions in Kentucky and Mississippi.

July 15-17.—Attended the State Convention of Arkansas. I participated in numerous activities at different Legion Posts and Districts throughout the state of Arkansas.

All of the Legionnaires, in all of the states I visited, were extremely courteous, cooperative and hospitable. I want to thank the staff at the National Headquarters.

Serving as National Vice Commander of The American Legion for the past year has been a most rewarding experience, and I will always cherish the memory.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

PASTOR JERRY SALVESON, North Dakota

On August 27, 1987, newly elected National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer appointed me to serve as National Chaplain of The American Legion. This appointment came at the conclusion of the 1987 National Convention. I am a pastor in The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, presently serving as Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston, Minnesota.

This past year of service as a national officer of The American Legion has certainly been one of the highlights of my life. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve with people of the caliber of John P. Comer and the top leadership of this world's largest and fastest growing veteran's organization. The staff at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, represent themselves well, with both technical skill and dedication to the organization they serve.

The preamble to the constitution of The American Legion begins with the words "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes. . ." The office of chaplain at every level of the organization from post to national reflects the intent that The American Legion exists to serve God as well as our country. The chaplain's task is neither administrative or legislative, but is one of support, service and guidance. Serving in that role at the national level has provided a unique opportunity to observe the organizational process.

My specific opportunities of service during the past year include: Writing 10 articles for the Americanism/ Children & Youth publication Act; writing four articles for the Advance publication; participating in the "homecoming" festivities for National Commander John P. Comer; attending and participating in both the fall and spring meetings of the National Executive Committee; conducting the National Conference for Department Chaplains: attending the Washington Conference in Washington, D.C.; participating in Boy's Nation and conducting the National Memorial Service at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, there have been several opportunities to speak and share in American Legion activities at the department and post level.

My schedule and itinerary of service for the past year as National Chaplain was as follows:

September 18-20, Regional Leadership Workshop, Fargo, North Dakota.

October 9-10, National Commander Comer's Homecoming, Boston, Massachusetts.

October 12-15, National Executive Committee meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.

October 17, North Dakota Department Commander's Homecoming, Bismarck, North Dakota.

November 10-12, Veteran's Day, Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

November 14, North Dakota Department homecoming in my honor, Fargo, North Dakota.

January 30, Dedication of North Dakota stone for Normandy Memorial, Fargo, North Dakota.

February 4, Warren, Minnesota American Legion Post.

February 19-21, North Dakota Department Winter Conference, Mandan, North Dakota.

February 28-March 2, Washington Conference, Washington, D.C.

March 15, American Legion Birthday Party, Milnor, North Dakota.

March 26, American Legion Birthday Party, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

May 13, Thirtieth Anniversary of Post Home, Garrison, North Dakota.

May 28, Minnesota Department Commander's Homecoming, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

May 30, Memorial Day observance, Fargo, North Dakota.

June 18, Minnesota 9th District convention, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

June 18-21, North Dakota Department convention, Minot, North Dakota.

July 13-14, Minnesota Department convention, Rochester, Minnesota.

July 23-27, Boy's Nation, Washington, D.C.

August 8-10, National Conference for Department Chaplains, Indianapolis, Indiana.

September 3-8, The American Legion National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky.

Serving as the National Chaplain of The American Legion under the dynamic leadership of National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer and with all the other outstanding national officers of the year 1987-88 has been a distinct privilege. My sincere thanks to God and all my fellow legionnaires who made this opportunity possible.

REPORT OF NATIONAL HISTORIAN

EDWARD F. BRENNAN, Illinois

Another year in this great organization of ours, The American Legion, has come to an end.

Our membership was way ahead of last year and Commander Comer's Child Welfare Foundation Project surpassed the $1 million goal.

Upon assuming the office of National Historian my first duty was to decide what contests we would have this year. I decided we would continue with the four contests: Department Narrative History, Department Scrapbook History, The Post Narrative History and the Post Scrapbook History.

At the commencement of this year the retirement of our National Librarian and Curator, Tom Hull, was announced. I would like to thank Tom and the excellent National Office staff for serving as advisers and consultants on the technical side for the National Historian's Office.

One of the very pleasant aspects of serving as National Historian has been the many friendships formed with a truly dedicated group of Legionnaires. The National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion, better known as NADHAL. NADHAL has been of great assistance to this National Historian and I would like to acknowledge my sincere thanks.

This year I have attempted to get more Posts interested in writing their histories. I feel it has paid off because our office has been very busy answering requests from Posts for such material as "Histories Are Important," "Outline For A One-Year Post Narrative History" and "Outline For A One-Year Post Scrapbook."

One of my final duties was to host the Annual National Historian's Luncheon on September 3 in connection with the 70th annual National Convention in Louisville. The speaker at this luncheon was Past National Commander Albert Keller, Jr.

I want thank Commander Comer for my appointment to this high office, and to the members of the National Executive Committee for confirming my appointment. My gratitude goes to the members of my homestate, the great Department of Illinois, who had confidence in me that led them to suggest my appointment.

REPORT OF NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

P.B. ONDERDONK, JR., Maryland

CONTRACTS

The following 53 contracts have been reviewed:

(1) Articles of Agreement by and between The American Legion and the American Legion Maryland National Convention, Inc., covering the convocation of the 1989 National Convention of The American Legion in the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland.

(2) Agreement by and between The American Legion and the William Morris Agency of Nashville, Tennessee, covering the appearance of Lee Greenwood and his Band at the 1988 American Legion National Convention Festival, Louisville, Kentucky, on Monday, September 5, 1988.

(3) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Delta Air Lines, Inc., wherein Delta Air Lines, Inc. agrees to provide special fares to the attendees of the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

(4) Letter Agreement by and between The American Legion and K & K Displays, Inc., covering the building and operating of The American Legion Parade Float for the 1988 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade.

(5) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sigma/Micro, Inc., covering computer software to be used in the Finance Division at the American Legion National Headquarters.

(6) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Marymount University covering the conducting of the 1988 Boys Nation to be held at Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia.

(7) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Major League Baseball Properties granting a license to use the words "World Series."

(8) An Agreement by and between The American Legion and Indiana National Bank establishing a Money Market program with the Bank as depository.

(9) Agreement by and between The American Legion, Maryland Bank NA and Trans National Group Services, Inc., to develop an Affinity Charge Card program for members of The American Legion.

(10) A Second Amendment to the Administration and Promotion Agreement by and between The American Legion and Rollins Burdick Hunter making certain changes in the Insurance Program of The American Legion.

(11) Purchase Contract for The American Legion parking lot along with Deed and Title Policy.

(12) Eight (8) Baseball Regional Tournament Contracts and the Contract for The American Legion World Series.

(13) Two (2) agreements by and between The American Legion and Leo A. Daly, Inc., covering the renovation of the Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. One is for the inside and one the outside renovation of the building.

(14) An Amendment to the Contract with Leo A. Daly, Inc., for the exterior to include additional work.

(15) A contract with P.E.R., Inc., for the window work needed on the Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C.

(16) Contract by and between The American Legion and IDI to purchase office automation equipment and a Maintenance Agreement for said equipment.

(17) Addendum to the Agreement by and Between The American Legion and Atlas Van Lines providing for discounts to members of The American Legion.

(18) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Endless Vacation Travel, Inc., to provide members of The American Legion, on a space-available basis, vacation weeks in condominium units or other resort accommodations at different locations throughout the United States.

(19) Addendum to the Agreement by and between The American Legion and La Quinta Motor Inns to provide its Preferred Customer Rate to members of The American Legion.

(20) Agreement by and between The American Legion and the United States Auto Club, Motoring Division, Inc., granting to Legionnaires a 32% discount on Club memberships.

(21) Agreement by and between The American Legion and North American Van Lines, Inc. for discounts to members.

(22) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Regal 8 Inn whereas Regal 8 Inn agrees to provide members of The American Legion a 10% discount off published room rates and free local phone calls.

(23) Agreement by and between Avis Rent A Car System, Inc., and the American Legion for discounts to American Legion members.

(24) Agreement by and between Allstate Motor Club, Inc. and the American Legion for discounts to American Legion members.

(25) Contract by and between The American Legion and Data Card Corporation for maintenance of embosser.

(26) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Churchill Downs and one with its food and beverage supplier for the 1988 Convention Festival.

(27) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Downie Productions to stage the Convention Festival in Louisville, Kentucky.

(28) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Downie Productions to stage Convention opening.

(29) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of the American Legion:

Brick Mill Studios, Inc.
Famous Artists Corporation
Rollins Burdick Hunter
Association Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA)
Indiana National Bank
Maryland Bank NA
Trans National Group Services, Inc.

(30) Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Calmark
Legion Group Underwriters
Life Insurance Co. of North America
Metromail Corporation
Peat, Marwick, Main and Company

(31) Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and the Indiana National Bank wherein The Indiana National Bank has developed an Affinity Charge Card Program for the Auxiliary to offer to its members.

(32) Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Maury Boyd and Associates, Inc., wherein Maury Boyd agrees to provide for all aspects of camera work, printing, furnishing of paper, binding, labeling, shipping and mailing all copies of all issues of the National News.

(33) List Protection Agreements by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and the following companies to cover protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of the American Legion Auxiliary:

Indiana National Bank
Maury Boyd and Associates, Inc.

Litigation

Case No. C-3-83-1248

Litigation styled:

WILLIAM KONRAD ELRICH, PLAINTIFF

vs.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE, ET AL, DEFENDANTS

On July 26, 1984, Plaintiff served a list of Defendants, copies of various letters and documents and a definition of the term "Res ipsa loquitur" by mail. Among the list of Defendants was The American Legion and Philip B. Onderdonk, the National Judge Advocate. The Plaintiff sued in Federal Court in Dayton, Ohio, pro se. A motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction, improper service and failure to state a claim was filed.

While Plaintiff's claim was hazy and indefinite, it appeared that he did not receive an affirmative response to his request for representation in Court. The American Legion may not provide representation unless authorized by the National Executive Committee. In addition, the National Judge Advocate, who is not licensed in Ohio, may not personally represent a Plaintiff in that state.

Among the other Defendants were a number of law firms, Veterans Administration officials, banks, insurance companies as well as local officials. It seems a bank foreclosed on the Plaintiff's two houses while the Plaintiff was in a hospital. It is our understanding that no guardian was appointed. The American Legion did convince the V.A. to waive any deficiency from the foreclosures. This case was dismissed.

Plaintiff refiled. We again moved to dismiss. The case was dismissed and is now on appeal. The appeal is continuing.

Civil No. S84-0500

Litigation styled:

STEPHEN S. MAROZSAN

vs.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

On August 30, 1984, The American Legion received service by certified mail from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. A Motion to dismiss for improper service, lack of jurisdiction and failure to state a proper claim was filed.

Plaintiff claimed that The American Legion gave false testimony to Congress on the subject of judicial review of veterans' claims before the Veterans Administration and that a case in California dealing with the $10.00 limitation of attorney's fees in cases before the Veterans Administration supports his claim. Plaintiff appeared pro se and appeared to be somewhat confused. The case has been dismissed as to The American Legion in response to the Motion filed by The American Legion. Later the Federal Defendants were granted Summary Judgment. Plaintiff has appealed. Apparently, this appeal only covers the Summary Judgment. We will watch the appeal closely.

Cause No. T-762

Litigation styled:

Justice for Veterans Victims of the Veterans Administration, STEPHEN MAROZSAN, EUGENE W. KING, LAMAR RHODES, AND RICHARD S. WIRTS, PLAINTIFFS

vs.

THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION, c/o ROBERT LYNGH, 700 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, IN 46206, DEFENDANT

On June 16, 1987, The American Legion received service through its Registered Agent, from the St. Joseph County Superior Court, in the above captioned case. It is an apparent attempt by Mr. Marozsan (and others) to relitigate the issue foreclosed when he failed to appeal the dismissal of The American Legion from the case reported on immediately above.

This case claimed damages of Two Billion Dollars made up of One Billion Dollars for malpractice in representing veterans, Five Hundred Million Dollars for conflict of interest involving the Veterans Administration and the fact that some Service Officers are located in Federal Buildings and Five Hundred Million Dollars for breach of a fiduciary duty to represent Plaintiffs' interests in obtaining judicial review for veterans' benefits.

It is clear from reading the Complaint that the basic complaint of the Plaintiffs is disagreement with The American Legion over the question of judicial review and a desire for Court review of their claims against the Veterans Administration.

The Complaint contains a number of allegations, including a claim that the Plaintiffs, at some unstated times in the past, were members of the American Legion. However, it is our understanding that at least one of the Plaintiffs was ineligible for membership in The American Legion.

A motion to dismiss was filed because Plaintiffs' attorney has failed to sign the Complaint. Plaintiffs' attorney refused to sign the Complaint. The case has been dismissed.

Civil Action 85A11332-3

Litigation styled:

FOOTE & DAVIES, INC., PLAINTIFF

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, Defendant/Third Party, PLAINTIFF

vs.

HOWARD COHEN, d/b/a/ Better Times Magazine, THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT

The case began in 1985 when Foote & Davies sued The American Legion claiming The American Legion was responsible for debts of Howard Cohen. An answer was filed and the case has been vigorously defended since the American Legion never assumed liability for Mr. Cohen's debts. Extensive discovery is continuing.

As part of the case, The American Legion joined Mr. Cohen as a Third Party Defendant. Mr. Cohen answered and later attempted to file a massive counterclaim. This counterclaim was dismissed by the Court. In addition, the court issued an order indicating that numerous individuals need not answer Mr. Cohen's lengthy and irrelevant interrogatories. At the same time the Court issued an order requiring Mr. Cohen to answer the interrogatories directed to him by The American Legion. The Court further granted to The American Legion fees and costs for the necessity of obtaining the discovery orders. The case is proceeding. Refunds of approximately 60% of subscribers' funds are in process pursuant to the authorization of the Court. The funds were obtained from the Defendants in "The American Legion vs. Caging Corp. of America," Infra. A Summary Judgment motion has been filed.

Litigation styled:

THE AMERICAN LEGION, PLAINTIFF

vs.

CAGING CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, METRO PRINTING & MAILING SERVICE, INC. AND COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST COMPANY OF VIRGINIA, DEFENDANTS.

As an outgrowth of the *Foote & Davies vs. The American Legion vs. Howard Cohen* case The American Legion brought suit against the named Defendants who were part of the Better Times solicitation operated by Howard Cohen. During discovery in this case, approximately 60% of the moneys paid by subscribers for Better Times Magazine were located in the custody of the named Defendants. After discovery was completed, the case was settled and the subscribers' money was paid into the Court in the Foote & Davies vs. The American Legion vs. Howard Cohen case subject to the Court's order.

The Court issued an order authorizing The American Legion to initiate refund to subscribers of Better Times Magazine. Announcements were placed in American Legion publications. The refund has been proceeding in accordance with the Court's order. You may now consider this matter complete. Additional reports on the refund will be made under the heading "*Foote & Davies, Inc., Plaintiff, vs. The American Legion, Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff, vs. Howard Cohen, d/b/a Better Times Magazine, Third-Party Defendant.*"

Litigation styled:

SONDRA MONROE

vs.

COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 16 AND No. 182, a/k/a/ UNITED AMERICAN WAR VETERANS COL. C. YOUNG POST No. 16 AND UNITED AMERICAN WAR VETERANS COL. C. YOUNG No. 682; COMMANDER WESLEY JONES, a/k/a/ WESLEY JONES; COMMANDER H. KEITH LEE, a/k/a/ H. KEITH LEE; SENIOR VICE COMMANDER AND JR. VICE COMMANDER JOSEPH H. DIXON, a/k/a/ JOSEPH H. DIXON; SENIOR VICE COMMANDER NICK WATSON, a/k/a/ NICK WATSON, ADJUTANT REBECCA GILBERT: JR. VICE COMMANDER ULYSSES PETERS, a/k/a/ ULYSSES PETERS; FINANCIAL OFFICER LAWRENCE HARRIS, a/k/a LAWRENCE HARRIS; FINANCIAL OFFICER DAVID L. BYRD, A/K/A DAVID L. BYRD; STEWARD HANSEL FULLER, a/k/a/ HANSEL FULLER; STEWARD FRED D. CLARK, a/k/a FRED D. CLARK; ALDIE V. CANNON, individually and as TRUSTEE OF COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG AMERICAN LEGION POSTS No. 16 AND No. 682; CHARLES SMITH, individually and as TRUSTEE OF COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG AMERICAN LEGION POSTS No. 16 AND No. 682; AMERICAN LEGION PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER; AND AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHAPTER

This case was initially served on The American Legion November 16, 1984. Plaintiff claims she was in American Legion Post No. 16, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 3:20 a.m., on November 14, 1982. She claimed she was shot by a patron, guest or customer and The American Legion National Organization owns and operates said Post. The case has been referred to our insurance company and is proceeding. A motion to correct the name and defects in service has been filed and partially granted. Incidentally, it appears that the Plaintiff brought the weapon into the bar. Since Plaintiff's attorney refused to dismiss The American Legion, Discovery continued and a Motion for Summary Judgment was prepared. This was denied by the Court pending proof of property ownership which is not an issue in the case, all parties agreeing that the property is owned by the United American War Veterans. As soon as certified title documents can be obtained and introduced and Discovery completed a further Motion for Summary Judgment will be filed.

Cause No. 29C01-8704-CP-00190

Litigation styled:

RAYMOND G. JEANES, Personal Representative of VIVIANNE JEANES BROOKS, DECEASED, and as Guardian of JUSTIN MICHAEL BROOKS, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE AMERICAN LEGION-INDIANA BRANCH, THE AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 155; JOHN AND JANE DOES 1 THROUGH 500, DEFENDANTS.

This is a Dram Shop case arising out of a fatal automobile accident after one of the drivers had allegedly been drinking all afternoon and evening at a Legion Post. The matter was referred to our insurance company which provided counsel. A Motion for Summary Judgment on behalf of the national organization was granted. The national organization is out of the case.

Litigation styled:

THOMAS AND LINDA DADDAZIO, as Parents and Natural Guardians of THOMAS J. DADDAZIO, ALAN AND MARYANN MCNULTY, as parents and natural guardians of ALAN MCNULTY, AND WILLIAM LARENSON as legal guardian of EDWIN RODRIGUES, PLAINTIFFS,

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY, DEFENDANT.

The Plaintiffs obtained a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) allowing the Stetson-Lamartine Post No. 281 Baseball Team to compete in the Department Tournament despite recruiting violations of misstating enrollments of the schools from which players were recruited, not counting a "bypassed" school, and failing to obtain approval for a new combination of schools. The American Legion was not named or served, yet the TRO purported to affect Regional Tournaments and The American Legion World Series. The Judge refused to hold a hearing until after the World Series. The team lost in the Department Tournament. However, the same issues can and probably will arise next year. Accordingly, The American Legion sought to intervene and, when this was granted, sought Summary Judgment which was also granted.

Case No. 87-18344 CL

Litigation styled:

HOWARD COHEN, d/b/a/ BETTER TIMES MAGAZINE, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, a foreign not for profit corporation, RICHARD WOOTEN, ROBERT W. SPANOGLE, and MARINE LEARNING INSTITUTE, a foreign not for profit corporation, DEFENDANTS.

The Plaintiff has filed a case alleging innumerable acts by the American Legion and other Defendants. Basically, he is attempting to blame others for what he did. Despite that fact that he has "sworn" to the Complaint, he has misstated, omitted and twisted many facts. Since the issues he is trying to raise here are the same ones that were dismissed in the Georgia Case, he must know the true state of facts.

The answer and motions of The American Legion for Summary Judgment were filed. The motions were granted. Mr. Cohen has appealed.

Civil Action No. 86-3336 (Hon. Alfred J. Lechner)

Litigation styled:

GEORGE NAPIER, SR., PLAINTIFF,

vs.

THIRTY OR MORE UNIDENTIFIED FEDERAL AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OFFICERS, VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, ET AL, DEFENDANTS.

In this case Plaintiff seeks damages for mental injuries caused by service in a segregated unit in 1944 and bad advice from The American Legion service representative in 1946. We are unable to locate any evidence that The American Legion ever advised Plaintiff. Plaintiff had sued the United States twice before on the case issues and had been dismissed. Plaintiff was really seeking to obtain judicial review for his veteran's claim.

At a hearing the Judge dismissed The American Legion on its Motion and granted our request for $17,000.00 in sanctions against Plaintiff's attorney who has appealed this portion of the Order. In the meantime, payment has been made to our attorney who is holding the funds in escrow pending completion of the appeal. The appeal has been argued. We are awaiting the Third Circuit's decision.

Cause No. 860PSC-1719-K

Litigation styled:

ANITA JANE BITZER, Administratrix of the estate of PAUL DANIEL BITZER, Deceased, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

ANDREW J. PRADZIAD, THE AMERICAN LEGION, A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND THE AMERICAN LEGION, INDIANA DEPARTMENT, DEFENDANTS.

This is a Dram Shop case. Plaintiff's husband was killed in an auto accident with Defendant Pradziad, who had been collecting membership dues in his District. It is alleged Defendant Pradziad had been drinking. Plaintiff joined the Department and National Organization claiming responsibility despite the case law to the contrary.

A motion for Summary Judgment has been filed.

No. Civ. 88-183

Litigation styled:

NORBERT W. RUGER, PLAINTIFF,

vs.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MATTHEWS, STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT S. FAIRCHILD, JR., DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, AMERICAN LEGION, HENRY C. COOGAN, KEN GIBSON, THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, DEFENDANTS.

Plaintiff sued pro se. He did not like The American Legion's position on judicial review and sought benefits. The Service Officer was also sued.

A motion to dismiss was filed and granted. The case is closed.

Case Number: 87-3240

Litigation styled:

BUREL GOMILLION

vs.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION, ET AL.

Plaintiff sued pro se claiming racial discrimination apparently because he was directed to a V.A. Hospital for an examination to assist the V.A. in reaching a decision on his claim instead of granting it immediately. The Service Officer was also sued.

An answer and motion for dismissal has been filed. Plaintiff has failed to respond. The Court is in the process of giving repeated extensions.

3VA-87-205 Civil

Litigation styled:

PATRICK M. SHELY, DENNIS R. THOMASON AND JACQUELINE THOMASON, PLAINTIFFS,

GEORGE W. MCADOO, SALLY MCADOO AND THE AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 2, CHARITABLE TRUST, INVOLUNTARY PLAINTIFFS,

vs.

KARL A. BACHNER, BACHNER & ASSOCIATES, real estate services company, a division of EQUIVEST CORPORATION, DAN C. BENSON, GARRETT W. WALDNER, AND JOHN DOES 1-5, DEFENDANTS AND THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFFS,

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 2, THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA, THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, THIRD PARTY DEFENDANTS.

This case arose out of a donation of real estate in Alaska for tax advantages. For some reason not clearly enunciated, Plaintiff does not believe that the Post is tax exempt and for some reason the building was foreclosed. Plaintiff claims The American Legion is somehow responsible.

If Plaintiff does not voluntarily dismiss The American Legion, a motion to dismiss will be filed.

Other Legal Matters

There are a number of other legal proceedings in which The American Legion has been contacted for discovery purposes but which are not part of or named in the particular cause.

Bequests

During the past year the national organization of The American Legion was the recipient of the following bequests in connection with which the paper work was handled by the office of the National Judge Advocate:

A bequest to The American Legion was provided for in the Last Will and Testament of John E. Hammond in the amount of $4,867.80

A bequest to The American Legion was provided for in the Last Will and Testament of J. Louis Felger in the amount of $24,219.15

A bequest to The American Legion was provided for in the Last Will and Testament of Frederick W. Reed in the amount of $5,342.51

A bequest to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. was provided for in the Last Will and Testament of Ida K. Shoat in the amount of $1,008.00

A bequest of $2,000.00 to The American Legion was provided for in the Last Will and Testament of Frank A. Marcatos.

The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the requirements of law, the National Judge Advocate has filed all necessary returns, reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1987 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the American Legion Retirement Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for The American Legion Retirement Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law. Amendments to comply with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 have been completed and filed. A new Summary Plan Description is in process.

Opinions Rendered

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 1219 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, Articles of Incorporation, civil rights statutes, retirement benefits under the law and other matters of a legal nature; problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research. In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department; National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to staff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 28 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in the American Legion Magazine, for the purpose of expunging statements or material questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 143 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmitted, when necessary, to the Publisher or Editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Firing Line

At the 1955 National Convention of The American Legion it was concluded that all statements made in each issue of the Firing Line should be documented and that the National Judge Advocate should approve each issue prior to publication in order to protect The American Legion from actions in libel. In accordance therewith, all issues have been reviewed and either approved by the National Judge Advocate prior to publication, or rejected in whole or in part, with appropriate comments.

Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1987 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan. The office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged for the distribution thereof as required by law. Amendments to comply with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 have been completed, filed and accepted. A Summary Plan Description has been distributed.

Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

Meetings of the National Retirement Committee and Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate, as a member of the National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters, The American Legion, and Chairman of the Employees' Salary Savings Committee, has attended and participated in all meetings held by these Committees during the past year.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers of The American Legion and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Last, during the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials of outside corporations, for the purpose of representation or for the rending of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matters legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department Officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. Onderdonk, Jr.
National Judge Advocate

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

WILLIAM D. JACKSON, Indiana, *Executive Director*

The Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, has four major responsibilities:

1) He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the myriad responsibilities of that office, and during temporary absences of the National Adjutant from The American Legion National Headquarters, acts for him.

2) He heads the Administrative Services Division and through it supervises and coordinates the many administrative functions of the Indianapolis Headquarters.

3) He serves on the Personnel Committee of the Headquarters and is Chairman of the Management Review Board.

4) He coordinates EDP-Computer operations, which has a Director reporting to the Executive Director.

Included in the Administrative Services Division of the Indianapolis Headquarters are the following administrative functions: Purchasing, Graphic Arts, General Supply . . . stock, receiving, and shipping; Library, Archives, E.A. Blackmore Museum; Printing and Communications; building maintenance; Cafeteria; Human Resources Division; Finance section and Insurance section.

The Administrative Services Division also Provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion.

Computer Center

The Computer Center is currently responsible for the following programs:

—Revenue Enhancement selections for mailings, maintenance of Data Base and reporting system.

—Updating of The American Legion Magazine, SAL, Firing Line, Advance, Commanders and Adjutants file, Legislative Bulletin, and ALNS mailing lists, and printing of labels and renewal notices. Maintenance of the mailing lists for The American Legion Extension Institute, ACT, and the Veterans Economic Guardian.

—Direct membership renewal notices and registers.

—The printing of membership cards and registers, Department accounting reports, statistical information, Post questionnaire reports and Delinquent Member lists.

—The printing of Department paper mailing labels.

—PUFL members updating and financial checks.

—Emblem Sales invoices and reports (mini-computer in Emblem Sales).

—Audit control and circulation analysis report for The American Legion Magazine.

—Inventory control and purchase order control of National Headquarters.

—General ledger financial reports.

—Accounts receivable.

—Accounts payable.

—Retirement Investment program.

—Furniture and Fixtures Inventory and Depreciation reports.

—Direct mail solicitation program.

—National Commission and Committee list.

—Post Office carrier route discount processing on all Department labels and Direct Billing.

—Select and create disks for Department Member Roster for input to the Department computers. Select and provide Department Membership on microfiche.

Statistical Tables

The following statistical tables are indicative of the volume of work routinely performed by this Division:

Mail June 1, 1987 through May 31, 1988

Incoming Letters (Distributed to various Divisions for processing)	7,643,545
Incoming Parcels	3,158
Outgoing Letters	278,534
Outgoing Parcels (Exclusive of National Emblem Sales)	4,900

Freight and Express June 1, 1987 through May 31, 1988

Out (Cartons)	2,623
Out (Pounds)	81,932
UPS (In)	4,071
UPS (Out)	13,227
Permit No. 719 (Outgoing)	3,569,398

Printing and Communications June 1, 1987 through May 31, 1988

Envelopes & Labels Addressed	180,838
IBM Displaywriter	16,059
A/M Varityper/Processor	68,842
Binding	9,100
9400	2,139,472
1048	324,913
Reprographics Facility (Print Shop)	7,814,427

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

LIBRARY

Joseph J. Hovish, *Librarian*

It should be noted that the former Librarian and Curator, Thomas V. Hull, retired on October 31st, 1987 after devoting thirty years of dedicated service to the Library and Museum operations. Over this time, Tom diligently and meticulously continued the high standards set by the first Librarian, Mrs. Verna B. Grimm. As the Library begins to absorb the new computer technology, it will become more apparent that the solid foundation set in previous years will make the transition that much easier. It is also with satisfaction to remember that the current writing of the official history of the American Legion is being aided by the fine research of the former librarian as a consultant.

In anticipation of the effect which a computer will bring to such an operation as the Library, some changes have been brought about to the storage of reports, minutes, and proceedings collection. The increased indexing and filing capacity of a computerized alphabetical order means that we will be able to rely less on our own memories and more on that of the computer. Other areas targeted for computerization are correspondence management, periodical control, and reference services.

Microfilming of the Library's holding of correspondence is progressing using 16mm format. In addition, filming of material from other divisions is beginning, with Finance Division documents being our main customer at present. There is little doubt that this conversion of paper records into microfilm will occupy the Library's staff into the next century.

In addition to the Library's own budget for expansion of book material, special appreciation must be extended to those most generous individuals who contribute both financially and in the form of gifts to the Library. Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. George H. Cornelius, Jr., Robert H. Barnes, and the National Association of Department Historians for donation of funds specially earmarked for purchases of books to the Verna B. Grimm Memorial Book Collection.

Mr. Dale Renaud, Past National Commander, donated the Royal Canadian Legion, 1926–1986.

The General Dynamics Company of New Jersey donated five Esso World War II maps.

Mr. Garland C. Packer donated a 50th anniversary yearbook of the California Boys State.

Mr. Harold Branton donated a copy of The American Legion Department of Texas, 1919–1986.

Mr. James R. Bolser donated the biography of General George S. Patton, by Ivan V. Hogg.

Statistical Summary of 12 Months ending May 31, 1988

General correspondence received and filed	10,202
Subject correspondence received and filed	5,439
Bulletins, minutes, reports, news released, etc.	423
Pamphlets and clippings received	419
Periodicals received	2,520
Book gifts received	1,400
History material filed	1,400
Folders and guides made	2,027
Books catalogued	98
Letters written—National Historian	639
Letters written—National Librarian	760
Prominent Legionnaire questionnaires mailed	63
Prominent Legionnaire questionnaires returned	21
Prominent Legionnaire death memos made	76
Prominent Legionnaire card entries	7,407
NEC mandate cards made and filed	103
NC mandate cards made and filed	493
Inter-library loans and outside service	31
Requests answered (persons coming to library)	469
Requests answered by telephone	1,303
Requests answered by tube	304
Requests answered by inter-office mail	134

Follow-ups sent	198
Microfilming (pages)	130,961
Requests (alphabetical list)	774
Microfiche	43,725

EMIL A. BLACKMORE MUSEUM

JOSEPH J. HOVISH, *Curator*

Many American Legionnaires, their families and friends have visited the Museum during this past year. Now there is a visitors' sign-in book, which we hope will reflect the far corners of this country and other countries from which our visitors travel. We are also grateful to learn from suggestions as to how we should develop as a museum. Visitors are now encouraged to make comments of what they would like to see more of (assuming that we can provide the "more of"). Many Legionnaires go to the National Convention than come to National Headquarters. It should be possible to develop exhibits reflecting the Museum's collection which could be taken to National, as well as Department, Conventions.

Significant objects added this past year are:

A U.S. War Veteran Ohio Unit 57 (early 20th century) uniform donated by Larry Garman.

An American Legion Auxiliary 1936 Convention Medal donated by Mr. Harry W. Mendelsohn.

A photograph of the American Legion Convention Parade in Paris, 1927 donated by Thomas R. Jakmides.

Various U.S. Army Vietnam Conflict medals donated by the Holy Family Shelter, Indianapolis.

A 1816–1966 Sesquicentennial Indiana medal and a 1917 American Legion/Camp Custer medal donated by Mr. Robert H. Barnes.

Various photographs donated by Mr. Joel Costner, Las Vegas, Nevada.

A Civil War uniform and a World War I uniform donated by Mr. Johnston of Akron, Ohio.

World War I flying glasses, binoculars and medals belonging to H. Weir Cook, donated by his son, H. Weir Cook, Jr. of Indianapolis.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

ROBERT S. TURNER, Georgia, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS Indiana, *Director*

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation adopted by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919. It read: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in an understanding and practical manner to Legion Posts and other groups and individuals, including Young America.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general plan that features wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace these specific objectives:

> To promote understanding of the principles of democratic government, developing interest in governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;
>
> To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to make these communities better and safer places in which to live;
>
> To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;
>
> To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting school awards, sponsoring and conducting oratorical contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper Flag Etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth-development programs;
>
> To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective-training activities;
>
> To work for the assimilation of aliens through schools of citizenship and other agencies, and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection;
>
> To combat subversion and all unAmerican groups and activities which have for their aim the downfall of democracy in America.

In addition, the National Americanism Commission has continued to be actively involved in legislative matters affecting our way of life. Among our legislative priorities are illegal entry of aliens into this country, voluntary prayer in public buildings, bilingual education alternatives and English as the official language of the United States.

This Commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of two National Standing Committees: the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education: and one Special Committee: the Committee on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Following is a report of the various program areas which are the responsibility of the National Americanism Commission and have been implemented during the 1988 American Legion Year.

Boys State/Boys Nation

Experience has proven that a stable government depends entirely upon a stable citizenship, and that kind of citizenship must have a fundamental understanding of the basic government of the United States. The American Legion knows that if we are to have that kind of stable citizenship, then we must develop a keen interest in government among our youngest citizens. This is what the program of Boys State does for the young men of our nation. It teaches the fundamentals of American government, up to the state level.

It was 53 years ago that Legionnaires in the State of Illinois recognized the need for a program that would help high school boys really understand and really appreciate the government they were learning about in the classroom. It was a time in the history of this nation when unAmerican ideas seriously threatened the future of the nation. The whole idea of Boys State, then and now, was to show young people that beyond a doubt, our form of government is good, but its preservation depends

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on intelligent, informed and loyal citizens in combination with an honest and impartial administration of government activities.

Ten years after the inception of Boys State as a program of the Legion, the National Organization recognized the need for a program like Boys State at the National level and in 1946 began sponsorship of American Legion Boys Nation. This year, we will conduct our 43rd annual session. Both Boys State and Boys Nation are unique programs that emphasize not. classroom lectures and textbook learning, but participation and personal experience in a model "state" that is complete with its governing bodies and elected officials.

Each year, more than 28,000 young Americans take part in the program, and through its 53 years, the program has graduated well over one million young men.

Every year, each Boys State selects two outstanding graduates to represent them at American Legion Boys Nation. Held in Washington, DC, this year from July 22-30, it is here that the delegates are introduced first-hand to the structure and function of the federal government.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies and institutions, shrines and historical spots in and about Washington. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted through the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation President and Vice President. In addition to federal legislators and representatives of federal agencies, organization and lay leaders of national distinction participate in Boys Nation. David C. Nason of South Hamilton, Massachusetts was elected President of the 43rd Annual Boys Nation. He will join the Youth Champion delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. John Hancock was elected Vice President.

National High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion has provided over 1.4 million dollars in college scholarships since 1938 for high school students participating in its annual National High School Oratorical Contest. This program, in its 52nd year, has been recognized by the Commission for the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution as a program of "exceptional merit."

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to his government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant taking not less than eight nor more than ten minutes for delivery. Each contestant must also give an extemporaneous discourse on a Constitutional topic (not known until the time of the contest), taking not less than three nor more than five minutes for delivery.

The following scholarship awards are made annually: First Place receives $16,000; Second Place—$14,000; Third Place—$10,000; Fourth Place—$8,000. Competition begins locally and progresses through the Department (state) to the National level of contests. Each winner who is certified into, and participates in the Regional Contest receives a $1,000 scholarship. Likewise, each Regional Winner who is eliminated in the Sectionals receives a $1,000 scholarship. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

The 51st Annual National Finals Contest in 1988 was held at Denton Senior High School, in Denton, Texas, and the four finalists were: First Place—Dilip B. Paliath, Baltimore, Maryland; Second Place—Jennifer Ann Dekker, Worthington, Minnesota; Third Place—Timothy J. Chandler, Wilsonville, Oregon; Fourth Place—Anne Margaret Joseph, Fairfax, Virginia.

Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion sponsors approximately 2,500 Scout Units in communities across the country. Its commitment to the principles of Scouting date back to its first National Convention in 1918

The American Legion selected Troy E. Eckhardt of Deland, Florida, as its 1988 Eagle Scout of the Year. His selection was based on his outstanding religious, school, community and scouting achievements.

He will receive an $8,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school, the money for which is provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund. He was sponsored by American Legion Post No. 259, DeBary, Florida.

Three Eagle Scouts were named runners-up for the award and each will receive a $2,000 college scholarship. They are: Robert K. Nickel, 17, San Diego, California, sponsored by City Service Post and Unit No. 537; Jonathan Lee Offt, 17, Blairstown, Iowa, sponsored by M.J. Kirby Post No. 170; and Matt Takara, 17, Pueblo, Colorado, sponsored by Pueblo Post No. 2.

Gun Safety

In an effort to increase the availability of gun safety and marksmanship training in communities throughout the United States, the American Legion is offering NRA Basic Firearms Education Program courses through its network of local Posts. These courses provide the opportunity to learn the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to pursue special interests in safety, personal protection, recreational and competitive shooting and hunting.

Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Scholarships

The American Legion develops, publicizes and administers the Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Program, which has for its objective the preparation of nurses at the graduate level in order that they may serve in the areas of prevention and care as it relates to Lung and Respiratory Diseases throughout the United States. the Eight and Forty, for the year 1987-88 awarded thirty scholarships at $2,500 each, bringing its accumulative total of 474 awards and $746,500. This scholarship program will again be offered for the 1988-89 school year.

Flag Education

The American Legion is a nationally recognized authority on the proper display of the United States Flag. Each year, hundreds of letters and phone calls are routinely answered giving factual information on the display, use of and respect for the American Flag.

Additionally, over 63,000 copies of our publication, "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and over 100,000 copies of the pamphlet, "Flag of the United States—How to Display it, How to Respect It" are distributed annually to schools, organizations and individuals. This information is sent at little or no cost to all who request it.

In 1988, an educational comic book titled, "Our Country's Flag", was published for use in elementary schools. The initial printing was 200,000 copies and we estimate an annual distribution of 100,000 a year.

Service to God and Country

A program of basic Americanism, this program seeks to prevent a spiritual decay of America by charging the citizenry with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

"Service to God" emphasizes regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, while "Service to Country" attempts to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation. These objectives are aimed at preparing our young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift, ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Each August a Conference for the Department Chaplains is held under the direction of the National Chaplain. Training and program information is provided for further dissemination to District and Post Chaplains who coordinate the program at the local level.

American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball celebrates its 63rd anniversary in 1988. This program continues to provide young American youth with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of baseball teamwork and teaches them a code of sportsmanship at the same time.

The American Legion Baseball Player of the Year in 1987 was Wilbur L. Stout, a catcher for Boyertown Post No. 471, Boyertown, Pennsylvania. Stout was honored at the Hall of Fame Game, Cooperstown, New York, August 11, 1988.

Don Mattingly, of the New York Yankees, was selected as the 1987 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year and was so saluted at special ceremonies prior to the game scheduled between the Yankees and the Boston Red Sox at New York on June 8, 1988. The choice was made since Mattingly exemplifies the aims and principles of our program by his general good conduct on and off the field, his cooperation with others, his community service, his playing eligibility and his contribution to the sport and to youth. Slightly more than 56 percent of all 1988 major leaguers. 516 played American Legion Baseball as teenagers.

Regional tournaments leading up to the 1988 World Series at Middletown, Connecticut, August 17-21, will be played at:

Northeastern (Region 1)—Bristol, Connecticut
Mid-Atlantic (Region 2)—Lyndhurst, New Jersey
Southeastern (Region 3)—Gainesville, Georgia
Mid-South (Region 4)—Memphis, Tennessee
Great Lakes (Region 5)—South Bend, Indiana
Central Plains (Region 6)—New Ulm, Minnesota Pacific
Northwest (Region 7)—Yakima, Washington
Western (Region 8)—Las Vegas, Nevada

Rochester, New York will host the 1989 World Series and Millington, Tennessee has been awarded the 1990 event.

For the 1988 season of American Legion Baseball, over 3,900 teams desiring to participate in national competition have been certified to National Headquarters. This is an increase over 1987's total of approximately 50 teams. It is estimated that another 2,500 teams not certified for national competition also participated in the Legion Baseball program during the 1988 season.

The 28th Annual National Baseball Conference will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 24-25, 1988. Fifty states and Puerto Rico will send Baseball Chairmen to discuss and recommend policy for the 1989 American Legion Baseball season.

COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

F. Rodney Loper, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, since its establishment by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on November 17, 1950 has scrutinized and continues to monitor what is transpiring in the realm of subversion and terrorism. This is a program of the Americanism Commission and detailed reports of its activities are given to the National Executive Committee at its Spring and Fall Meetings and at National Conventions.

The Committee is responsible for furnishing background information on assigned resolutions that are considered by the National Americanism Commission for recommended action to the National Executive Committee or the National Convention.

The National Americanism Commission has long been concerned about anti-American activities and, in 1952, developed a publication known as Firing Line. This began regular dissemination of information on certain groups and organizations participating in activities of a subversive nature.

Every effort is made to maintain a publication which is current and up-to-date. During the past year, *Firing Line* has reported on: Neo-Nazi convictions; illegal aliens; Espionage and Convicted Spies; and Terrorism reports from around the world.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Dr. W.F. Haynie, Texas, *Chairman*

The National Committee on Education, established in 1976, meets twice each year and is the only joint committee of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Committee is made up of six Legionnaires appointed by the National Commander, two Legionnaires appointed by the National Americanism Chairman and three Auxiliary members appointed by the National President.

The purposes of the National Committee shall be: (1) To inform itself and The American Legion of developments, problems and potentials in the field of Education; (2) To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion; and (3) To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between the American Legion and educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

The degree of success of this Committee is determined by the priority assigned and sincerity of appointment given to similar committees at the Department and Post levels.

Education was one of the first major concerns of The American Legion. Early in its development, the organization committed itself to a constructive support of Education. During the following years, the American Legion developed a formal Policy on Education with these fundamental concepts.

Fundamental Concepts.—The American Legion has always strongly supported the principle that Education is a necessary prerequisite to the successful functioning of a democracy. While recognizing the right of private and religious groups to maintain schools, The American Legion vigorously subscribes to the necessity of a universal publicly supported system of primary, secondary and college education to ensure that every American child has the opportunity for an adequate education. The American Legion believes that popular self-government as created by the covenant set forth in the Constitution of the United States, cannot continue to exist unless there is the bulwark of a continuing system of free public education. Not only does proper National defense require trained personnel, but the daily operations of our local, State, and Federal Governments, our farms, our professions, our commerce and industry and, in fact, every phase of life today, demands that we have competent citizens, who are qualified, willing and able to discharge their responsibilities.

The availability of educational opportunity for every individual to pursue his own development is a prerequisite to the achievement of all other social goals. Our education system must, therefore, be designed to provide every person the means to reach his highest potential, which, in turn, will provide our Country as a whole with the high level of responsible citizens and specialized workers which it requires. In turn, we will have greater assurance of economic growth, of sound decision-making, and the knowledge necessary to promote our National security.

This educational system should produce citizens who understand and who are dedicated to the principles of free enterprise: to democratic principles and processes; and whose devotion to freedom and human dignity goes beyond mere lip service.

Elements of the Program.—The Education Program consists of basically three elements: (1) Recognition of local systems through observance and activities of American Education Week; (2) Dissemination of scholarship and financial aid information through the publication of "Need A Lift?"; and (3) Promotion of involvement by American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units in a community-wide effort to enhance the programs and policies of the local schools through the guidelines provided in the handbook PACT (Post, Auxiliary, Community Together).

American Education Week.—American Education Week is an annual event cosponsored nationally by The American Legion, the National Education Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National School Boards Association and the Department of Education. The observance was originally established by The American Legion with the help of the National Education Association in 1921. The major objective of this program is to focus public attention on the needs and achievements of the Nation's schools. This year's theme, "America's Schools: Invest in Your Future", is a recognition that a strong educational program is a united effort by the entire community. The observance is scheduled to begin on Sunday, November 13 and conclude on Saturday, November 19, 1988. Helpful pamphlets and suggestions have been prepared for distribution to all American Legion Posts as they formulate plans for their observance.

"Need A Lift?".—This publication, revised each year, contains 144 pages of scholarships, grants and loan information, work-study cooperative programs and sources of career information for all students. A special section is directed to the veteran and his/her dependents and a section listing the scholarships and financial aids available from the Departments of The American Legion.

A companion publication is the pamphlet "A Guide for Parents and Students" which contains valuable information for thoughtful high school students and their parents in planning for a career, the necessary educational training and financing. Distribution of over 100,000 copies of each of these publications is handled through American Legion Posts, schools, counselors and librarians, by mail to all public and private high schools and individual requests, and by exhibiting with free distribution at the National Conventions of the American Association for Counseling and Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National School Boards Association. Copies can also be obtained by writing: "Need A Lift?", The American Legion National Emblem Sales Division, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Individual copies of "Need A Lift?" are $1 postpaid or $75 per 100, plus shipping and handling."A Guide for Parents and Students" is available at a cost of $12.50 per 500 or $18.75 per 1,000 copies.

PACT Handbook.—This handbook is the guide for The American Legion Education Chairman. It contains information on the goals and objectives of the program, ideas and suggestions for activities, coordinating concepts and a typical calendar of a successful program. Programs covered in the handbook include: Adult Literacy; Citizenship Education; Career Education activities such as Career Nights, Community Resource Files and Adopt-A-School; and Financial Aid Nights.

Commitment.—The American Legion further believes that the citizens of this country should be dedicated to the pursuance of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize and esteem those persons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge and capacity, particularly in the fields in which they teach and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs of the future. The American Legion supports such a system of Education, and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

School Medal Award Program.—Nearly 25,000 young students are recipients of The American Legion School Medal Award each year. This program is designed to recognize the young people for the following purposes:

COURAGE. Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do the right thing without public applause and regardless of personal advantage. A quality of intellect.

HONOR. Highly-developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct, devotion to duty; adherence to truth; keen sense of what is right; practice of clean speech.

LEADERSHIP. Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illness or other handicaps.

PATRIOTISM. An ideal of loyal Americanism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies—foreign or domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

SCHOLARSHIP. Attainments in school studies; quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.

SERVICE. Kindliness, unselfishness, fellowship, protection of the weak, promotion of the interests and welfare of associates and constructive aid for the upbuilding of schools and community.

Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS).—Although not a program of The American Legion, Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) has received enthusiastic support from The American Legion's National Committee on Education and Legion Posts across the country. PLUS for 1988-1989 is an unprecedented collaboration of Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. and Public Broadcasting Service to address the serious problems of Youth Illiteracy in America, a long-time concern of the American Legion. Legion Posts have become quite involved in the local task forces formed by the PLUS initiative. Additionally, information regarding the ongoing National programming being developed by ABC and PBS for broadcast during the 1988-1989 season is being disseminated by Posts to their membership and the community.

COMMITTEE ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

ROBERT S. TURNER, Georgia, *Chairman*

Organized in 1985 and since then engaged in developing program ideas and projects for Posts of The American Legion, this committee has been successful in imparting historical information and memorabilia through our members to schools and communities world-wide. Many of our Posts and Departments have taken the initiative and developed their own projects or worked with other groups to co-sponsor Bicentennial events in their area.

A strong commitment to capitalize on the educational importance of the Bicentennial, rather than the financial aspect, has guided this committee in their work and set the tone for our nationwide involvement. Dissemination of information about our Republic is a continuing effort of The American Legion, but with regard to the Bicentennial we have gone so much farther.

In the last two years, we have distributed nearly a quarter million "Bicentennial Guides" suggestions for projects and a Legion-developed bibliography on the Constitution and the signers. The Committee developed a one-act drama on the Constitution that was published by The American Legion and, along with other Bicentennial items, was distributed free-of-charge to America's 25,000 public, private and parochial high schools in January of 1987.

Unquestionably, the most popular item to be produced by the American Legion has been its 8-page Bicentennial Coloring 8ook. Developed exclusively by the Legion for lower elementary grades, more than 320,000 copies were purchased this past year from National Headquarters by our Posts and given to schools in their area. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the text of the Constitution (booklet) have also been distributed by Post members during the Bicentennial period.

We have cooperated closely with the Federal Commission on the bicentennial that is chaired by Chief Justice Warren Burger and in the Spring of 1987, the Commission officially recognized and endorsed the entire Bicentennial program of The American Legion, citing it as a project "of exceptional merit with national significance, and substantial educational and historic value."

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

EUGENE V. LINDQUIST, Minnesota, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

As World War I was coming to a close, many veterans knew there would be many post-war issues that would specifically deal with them and their families. This group of veterans formed on organization called the American Legion and of the first National Convention conducted in November of 1919, they passed resolutions to petition Congress to enact legislation that would aid the needs of veterans, their families, and the American way of life.

American Legion Posts were urged to assist widows and children of deceased veterans and Congress was asked to make compensation allowances for them because of their family sacrifice. The initial purpose of the Legion's Child Welfare program was to provide a setting in which every veteran's child could realize his/her full potential.

It then become very apparent that a need existed to show concern for all the youth of the nation to insure improved conditions that would allow them the best possible environment to grow in. The volunteer force of the American Legion and Auxiliary is second to none in this Country when it comes to providing assistance for its children.

From its beginning to the present, The American Legion has maintained a positive and successful approach to gain achievements that will benefit all children. This involvement by Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units clearly indicates that our organizations do much more than just talk about being concerned. For our children to be effective leaders in the future, they must be given every possible opportunity to grow and learn in our society.

1987 PROGRAM

Each year during the month of May, our National Commission on Children & Youth meets to discuss what programs it wants to emphasize for the coming program year. The National staff is then directed to research these areas of concern and publish materials to support our volunteers.

Because there has been a continuing need in our current areas, the commission decided to remain with the same areas of emphasis. These areas for concentration for this program year were:

1. Drug Abuse Prevention
2. Teenage Suicide Prevention
3. Missing Children

Drug Abuse Prevention.—The advancement of medical technology has given us many wonder drugs to relieve and cure todays numerous pains and ailments. Unfortunately, that some advancement has given society more types of substances to abuse. Amphetamines and barbiturates continue to be major items of abuse because they are easy to conceal, not very hard to obtain, and are reasonably priced when compared to other drugs.

The great tragedy of substance abuse has infested all levels of our society and is now even becoming more and more prevalent in the elementary school age children. Many of our children come in contact with drugs by age seven. It is our feeling that we must continue to attack this problem from the demand side. Of course, we need to try and dry up the supply as often as possible, but the more we can assist our youngsters in not starting to be users, the greater impact will be mode on the demand.

Adolescence is a very trying time for young people. They may turn to drugs in anticipation of lessening the pressures of growing up, without realizing they are only digging a deeper hole. Our volunteers ore making great strides in two major areas here. They have been instrumental in educating children and their parents on substance abuse, but they have not stopped it there. They are also offering positive alternatives for our young people to direct their abundant energy.

Children need to be taught the proper use and value of prescription medicines and the physical and mental dangers involved with the use of all substances to include the legal drugs of alcohol and tobacco. Many of our Nations youth are also assisting with this problem. They are forming "Just Say No" clubs in schools to create a positive peer pressure to show they can have just as much fun by staying straight. All concerned citizens must never let up in showing our young people we are concerned about them and their future for a productive life.

Teenage Suicide Prevention.—According to statistics, the suicide rate for persons under the age of 21 has tripled since 1955. Every hour, at least one American teenager or young adult has committed suicide and as many as 40 others have made the attempt.

Data shows that suicide is the second largest killer among college age students and the third largest killer among early and middle teens. It is a sad commentary on today's society that so many young people seek to eliminate their troubles by taking their own lives. Suicide has developed into an epidemic killer of this nation's young people from all walks of life.

Research findings from around the country indicate the following:

Eight out of ten people that kill themselves give some warning of their intentions.
Many suicides occur around three months after there has been some improvement of their troubles.
Suicide is represented among all income groups.
Suicide does not automatically run in families.
Individuals are not necessarily mentally ill.
Nearly half are drug related.
Many happen in split families or when a poor parent/child relationship exists.
Four out five who actually commit suicide have tried to do so at least once before.

One of the disadvantages of high technology is that it helps to create a fast paced society, expecting more and more of what the technology offers. Our young people are getting caught up in this "fast lane" of society before they are emotionally or physically ready for it.

It is imperative that any adult who has daily contact with young people educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide if we are to decrease the numbers in this tragic area. This Notion cannot afford to let one of its greatest national treasures go to such waste.

Missing Children.—How much do we take for granted during the day-to-day routine of our lives? If we really took the time to list these items, we would most likely be quite surprised at the length of the list. Two such items could easily be: Getting the kids off to school or day care center and sitting down to the dinner table for the evening meal. But what if you get home and your child or one of your children is not there and there has been no message as to their whereabouts?

What would you do? Where would you go? Who would you contact? Maybe the child just stopped to play at a friend's house. But maybe the child is just GONE. Lost, abducted, murdered, amnesia, and runaways are horrifying words for a parent to think about, but they are the categories of the problem MISSING.

It is estimated that as many as 4,000 youngsters are murdered each year. Most of which are unidentified bodies in unknown areas. For every unidentified body found, there is a family somewhere wondering what has happened to their missing young person.

Most local law enforcement agencies have at least a 24-hour waiting period, especially for youngsters between the ages of 11 and 18. (Even if a younger child is missing, an immediate investigation must be substantiated by direct evidence of foul play.) In the case of a youngster that just disappears, that type of evidence is not there. When a youngster is missing, the major portion of the burden of search is carried by the parents.

If your car is stolen in one state and found in another state, it can usually be recovered by identification information placed on a stolen vehicle report. The Police agencies' computers are geared for that type of theft. This is not the case in the theft of a child.

Of the approximate 150,000 children that are abducted each year, 50,000 are taken by strangers and 100,000 by non-custodial parents of divorces or separations. Of these numbers, 10% are found alive and about another 10% are found dead. The rest are never seen again, alive or dead, by their families. The odds of recovery at best could only be labeled as dismal.

This is a problem that not only threatens the family way of life, but the very existence of children that most often are too young to help themselves.

Continuing Programs

Special Olympics.—Since the dawn of man, the "different" of their respective cultures have been separated from the "normal." The Special Olympics program bridges that gap, emotionally as well as physically. Thousands of volunteers donate thousands of dollars and hours of time annually in community and state athletic contests, giving the mentally retarded the chance to experience and achieve productivity.

This program is not merely an exercise for the body; it's an exercise in life that teaches these individuals that achievement, through their own effort, is an attainable goal. Many of the athletes can, and are quite capable of, assisting in the coaching and training of other athletes in events they have excelled in.

The Special Olympics program allows these individuals the chance to bean active member in their society, not just a separated bystander of it.

The need for volunteers in this program is not only enormous, it is essential if the program is to continue to thrive and enjoy its current success. It is our sincerest hope that the community volunteers will always be there to keep this program alive and well, because the largest benefactor of this great endeavor is the character of our society.

Temporary Financial Assistance.—This program is the landmark of the Children & Youth activities. From the very start, it voiced the concern of our founders for the care of veterans' children. It is still a very active program of the Children & Youth Commission, and the past few years have seen a steady increase in the amounts of assistance required for needy veteran families.

The fund is used to assist families in meeting the costs of shelter, food, utilities, and health income items when the parents are unable to do so. We are thereby helping to keep the children in a more stable home environment.

Through the program of TFA, a Post may call upon the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division for cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined by investigation that the child is in need and that no other sources are available or those that are available are inadequate.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a vital tool used by The American Legion to help insure the child of a veteran is allowed to develop in the home.

Halloween.—The "Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night" program is now entering its 16th year of National emphasis. It developed from the horror of the early 1970's, when nationwide attention was focused on our children being maimed and drugged by "treats" they had been given while making their rounds for that evening.

There are many activities that can be planned at the community level to reduce the risks of children being harmed during this time of the year.

The National office of The American Legion publishes a brochure that passes along ideas and safety tips to aid in keeping this a fun and festive occasion. These brochures are available through our state organizations and all are encouraged to use them to help protect the well-being of our children.

Special Post Activity Award.—This is a recognition program for our Legion Posts. Each year, we encourage our Posts to submit a project they have conducted during the past year that has benefitted the youth of their community. As an incentive, beautiful plaques are prepared for the winners and awarded in the presence of their peers at their National Leadership Workshop held each fall.

American Legion Family Week.—For many years, the National Commission on Children & Youth has, by mandate, advocated the passage of federal legislation designating the week of Thanksgiving as National Family Week. Many organizations have joined us in this quest. It is now our position to continue to push for such legislation, but in the mean time, to conduct our own observance of this important annual event. Many activities have been outlined to help us bring the basic unit in America, the family, into proper perspective. As an example: SUNDAY—Religion Day—Whatever your faith, share its importance with your young. MONDAY—Home day—Focus attention on the responsibility a parent and children have to each other. TUESDAY—Education Day—Self-discipline, the key to excellence, is essential to all levels of education. WEDNESDAY—Community Day—Your family's role in your community. THURSDAY—Thanksgiving Day. FRIDAY—Nature Day Discipline selves to nature's laws and beauty. SATURDAY—Recreation Day or Religious Observance Day.

National Leadership Workshops

Our National Commission has been very encouraged by the attendance of our volunteers. At the 1987 set of conferences, we again saw an increase of attendees for both Legion and Auxiliary members. At these workshops, we share our programs and methods of implementation to the Posts and Units. In 1986, our workshops were conducted at:

Region 1—Brunswick, ME—September 11-13
Region 2—Richmond, VA—September 25-27
Region 3—Orlando, FL—September 18-20
Region 4—Jackson, MS—September 25-27
Region 5—Indianapolis, IN—October 2-4
Region 6—Fargo, ND—September 18-20
Region 7—Las Vegas, NV—October 2-4
Region 8—Boise, ID—September 11-13

We realize that all of our delegates cannot afford to stay in a hotel and that is why we move them around each year from city to city within each region. This gives Posts in that area the opportunity to send representatives at a very minimum cost. Our major goal is to help children and our presence at these outreach workshops is really having a positive impact on annual reports such as this.

Legislative Efforts

The initiation and support of worthwhile Children & Youth legislation is one of the means by which the Children & Youth Commission has attempted to accomplish its goal during the 1987-88 program year. At our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, August 25-27, 1987, the following mandates were introduced for our attention during this Congress:

Child Pornography.—Res. 509. Studies do indicate that there is a direct and strong correlation between those who read pornographic magazines and those who commit related crimes. Additional data reveals that child pornography, "kiddie porn," is often found in the personal effects of child molesters after their arrest. The American Legion is firm in its position that the interstate transportation of obscene material must be stopped and that the United States Postal Service be provided sufficient investigators to enforce existing federal laws against pornography and the transportation of pornographic material.

Reaffirming Immunization Program.—Res. 508. The American Legion realizes that in today's society there is no place for communicable diseases for which there is a vaccine. Though true, we also realize that several childhood communicable diseases breakout annually because children are not properly vaccinated. It is our belief that full protection is avoidable and that the state and federal governments should provide sufficient funding so that indigent families with children can receive the necessary immunizations against all communicable diseases.

Catastrophic Illness Among Children.—Res. 510. It has long been our position that all children should have adequate health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being. Through our Temporary Financial Assistance program, we have seen an increase in the case load of needy medical problems. Unfortunately, many of our children are not receiving the necessary medical care due to the extreme requirements placed on the financial abilities of the average family. Consequently, children with severe catastrophic illnesses are not receiving the needed medical care. The rising cost of medical care in such cases is not covered by even the best of medical policies. The American Legion believes that the state and federal governments should enact the necessary legislation to assist financially those families faced by catastrophic illness to the end that the family will not be financially devastated.

National Family Week.—Res. 506. One of the basic principles of our program is to maintain the integrity of the family home. In today's fast paced society, it is critical that we seek to recognize the importance of strengthening the basic unit of our country . . . the family. No institution can take the place of the family in giving meaning to human life and stability to our society. Every year we urge the President and the Congress to establish National Family Week on permanent basis during the Thanksgiving holiday week.

School Nutrition Program.—Res. 507 once again reaffirms its position that the Congress of the United States and the various state legislatures be urged to appropriate sufficient funds for school nutrition programs to reflect the increased cost of food and to provide for needed facilities and trained personnel for the purpose of conducting an adequate school lunch program.

Drug Trafficking Prevention.—Res. 505. We realize that one of the best methods to attack the drug problem is from the demand side, but this resolution is to urge funding to all necessary areas and agencies that can help reduce the quantity of these substances that are being made available in this Country. By working at both ends of the problem, we can make a difference in the amount of users.

These are highlights of our 1986 legislative program, as offered by the National Commission on Children & Youth. This Commission has constantly urged its Departments of The American Legion to support Children & Youth legislation as it relates to our national objectives. Local Posts are also encouraged to support city ordinances as they deal with the community's efforts to improve conditions for children and youth. Our Children & Youth legislation program is a never-ending process which we eagerly accept for the sake of all children—everywhere!

Children & Youth Expenditures

Annually, as it has for the past 63 years, the Commission on Children & Youth activities from nearly 15,000 Posts of The American Legion, 12,000 Units of the American Legion Auxiliary, and hundreds of Salons of the Eight and Forty. In addition, the expenditures of Departments and of the National Organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1 through May 31 and combined with these reports.

This year, Posts and Departments of the Legion reported expenditures of $30,744,234. To this amount, we proudly add $3,995,045 by the Auxiliary. An additional $265,115 was expended by the Eight and Forty, while $79,068 was given to families in need through our Temporary Financial Assistance program. To this we add other contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of $143,100. This amounts to a grand total of expenditures and contributions to the total Children & Youth program in 1987-88 of $35,226,562.

Children & Youth Literature

During the 1987-88 program year, tens of thousands of pieces of Children & Youth literature were distributed by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division as it attempted to further the objectives of our total program.

As shown in Table No. 5, our most popular brochures are those related to our major points of emphasis—Drug Abuse, Teenage Suicide and Missing Children. It is of further interest to note that some 4,826 citations were distributed to Departments in order to recognize Posts for their contributions to the overall Children & Youth program.

Appreciation Acknowledged

The National Commission on Children & Youth and its Chairman must take this opportunity to thank the volunteers of the legion and its Auxiliary. Many hours, tremendous amounts of energy and personal sacrifice cannot be repaid. We are indeed thankful that the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in The American Legion. Special mention must also go to our National Commander John P. Comer; not because of his rank, but because of his sincere dedication and verbal support for our program during this past year. Likewise, special thanks to National Adjutant Robert Spanogle for his support and cooperation. The American Legion does an excellent job with this program, but the record must be clear. Without the assistance of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Eight and Forty, our National Children & Youth program would have little chance for success.

Commission on Children & Youth

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Region 4

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Region 7

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Don B. Craig, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Ray Martinez, Phoenix, Arizona
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Louis Pardy, North Las Vegas, Nevada
Dahl Ray Jensen, Kearns, Utah

Region 8

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Don G. Gunderson, Albion, Idaho
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Wayne Davis, Hay Springs, Nebraska
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Jerry A. Kautzer, Green Lake, Wisconsin

TABLE NO. 1

Region and Department	Reporting Legion	Reporting Auxiliary	Temporary Financial Assistance by National	Contributions To Child Welfare Foundation By Posts & Units	Direct Aid From Posts, Units And Departments	Contributions To Other Child Serving Agencies By Legion And Auxiliary	Other Expenditures For Children By Legion And Auxiliary	Department Administrative Expense By Legion And Auxiliary	Total Aid For Children From 8/40	Total Number Of Children Served Nationally	Total Aid Legion And Auxiliary Lines 4 thru 10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
REG. 1											
CT	71%	97%	-0-	$5,335	$25,994	$43,816	$215,985	$2,870	$1,610	7,065	$295,610
ME	37%	100%	-0-	2,397	17,762	42,941	82,767	-0-	1,087	7,953	146,954
MA	30%	100%	-0-	86,586	121,679	273,611	498,313	4,687	7,843	28,815	992,719
NH	59%	98%	950	17,047	93,327	107,670	330,543	495	670	22,884	550,702
RI	64%	95%	-0-	4,508	18,006	26,733	58,637	1,200	325	3,106	109,409
VT	100%	95%	-0-	7,649	57,867	68,037	329,080	163	642	19,341	463,438
TOTAL	49%	98%	950	123,522	334,635	562,808	1,515,325	9,415	12,177	89,164	2,558,832
REG. 2											
DE	100%	100%	-0-	3,231	11,494	12,468	31,113	1,055	(2)	3,654	59,361
D.C.	64%	0%	-0-	844	2,751	3,624	20,973	-0-	444	190	28,636
MD	86%	89%	-0-	8,828	344,507	928,560	727,272	2,000	3,982	76,481	2,015,149
NJ	50%	69%	1,100	3,699	129,058	204,131	463,233	25,000	5,621	31,259	831,842
NY	94%	88%	-0-	30,512	394,853	927,732	1,017,918	14,494	12,093	83,142	2,397,602
PA	73%	63%	4,980	7,025	156,017	231,603	867,621	7,319	10,679	58,882	1,285,244
PR	14%	0%	2,320	1,754	9,810	6,965	10,015	-0-	(2)	126	30,864
VA	6%	100%	-0-	16,459	40,823	45,447	82,639	1,250	4,492	27,261	191,110
WV	55%	23%	-0-	1,860	59,354	231,612	184,365	450	2,466	13,243	480,107
TOTAL	71%	73%	8,400	74,212	1,148,667	2,592,142	3,405,149	51,568	39,777	294,238	7,319,915
REG. 3											
AL	43%	53%	5,860	11,527	37,096	51,578	88,906	3,056	2,028	10,153	200,051
FL	95%	100%	-0-	26,998	532,273	344,460	619,567	3,420	9,922	90,825	1,536,640
GA	39%	40%	1,150	9,237	189,576	155,791	206,586	76	(2)	25,714	562,416
KY	81%	49%	8,450	9,851	459,322	708,537	461,883	273	2,319	8,713	1,650,635
NC	33%	100%	1,450	9,214	47,062	67,458	378,136	702	(2)	29,465	504,022
Panama	0%	0%	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(2)	-0-	-0-
SC	2%	54%	-0-	7,876	6,925	2,925	13,555	940	(2)	627	32,221
TN	48%	12%	7,300	8,399	92,993	136,562	185,753	2,000	155	12,862	433,162
TOTAL	58%	65%	24,210	83,102	1,365,247	1,467,311	1,954,386	10,467	14,424	178,359	4,919,147
REG. 4											
AR	44%	61%	1,610	3,341	116,373	70,731	177,434	-0-	857	12,614	370,346
LA	36%	100%	-0-	7,738	151,190	281,559	439,938	500	12,174	20,001	893,099
MS	36%	45%	2,365	2,993	21,020	48,352	114,881	500	870	8,208	190,981
OK	28%	100%	8,900	1,087	131,205	86,541	447,704	36,301	1,835	15,828	713,573
TX	40%	78%	850	20,672	243,446	376,839	487,684	9,543	2,679	82,467	1,141,713
TOTAL	37%	82%	13,725	35,831	663,234	864,022	1,667,641	46,844	18,415	139,118	3,309,712
REG. 5											
IL	44%	43%	2,000	18,286	183,166	280,024	744,918	1,200	38,050	58,575	1,267,644
IN	45%	78%	2,650	30,187	196,119	258,124	382,832	400	8,817	34,610	879,129
MI	56%	96%	600	13,208	117,753	142,604	540,872	1,500	8,991	29,726	825,528
MO	38%	52%	700	34,371	142,640	371,477	414,629	4,193	6,705	20,313	974,715
OH	61%	69%	1,234	23,679	284,703	415,567	836,658	10,303	18,020	132,940	1,590,164
WI	64%	100%	1,100	13,329	163,612	148,269	877,777	27,000	(2)	18,524	1,231,087
TOTAL	51%	78%	8,284	133,060	1,087,993	1,616,065	3,797,686	44,596	80,583	294,688	6,768,267
REG. 6											
IA	79%	82%	-0-	1,891	41,628	121,400	218,267	500	(2)	15,897	383,686
KS	59%	81%	1,325	14,030	62,662	54,621	334,778	2,000	11,430	19,870	480,846
MN	67%	94%	600	44,613	259,842	817,239	1,235,542	5,608	359	61,123	2,363,803
NE	58%	90%	-0-	13,260	32,299	81,973	549,585	6,526	5,747	30,214	689,390
ND	100%	91%	1,233	8,489	64,429	277,290	1,102,689	210	(2)	19,943	1,454,340
SD	49%	93%	-0-	846	23,755	39,956	187,047	1,101	2,312	20,293	255,017
TOTAL	69%	88%	3,158	83,129	484,615	1,392,479	3,627,908	15,945	19,848	167,340	5,627,082
REG. 7											
AZ	97%	58%	8,450	3,363	99,410	46,522	159,339	2,475	3,796	35,066	323,355
CA	43%	100%	300	21,206	188,725	285,420	606,723	12,305	26,354	71,507	1,141,033
CO	46%	100%	250	5,980	97,024	161,220	202,059	850	2,752	26,038	470,135
HI	49%	50%	-0-	2,064	3,141	39,355	28,674	-0-	472	3,032	73,706
NV	29%	59%	-0-	1,110	5,824	11,430	53,659	-0-	362	20,178	72,385
NM	34%	0%	4,863	2,220	84,780	26,282	294,234	1,695	1,360	689	415,434
UT	100%	31%	2,450	2,894	30,524	38,031	92,068	1,000	5,453	8,015	172,420
TOTAL	52%	78%	16,313	38,837	509,428	608,260	1,436,756	18,325	40,549	164,525	2,668,468
REG. 8											
AK	44%	0%	-0-	4,647	37,216	108,675	100,660	1,538	1,229	4,051	253,965
ID	51%	95%	800	5,141	64,432	45,147	145,769	50	799	14,972	262,138
MT	71%	54%	1,898	2,806	90,033	9,842	136,074	535	1,142	9,830	242,330
OR	4%	100%	1,330	15,908	136,668	136,306	205,899	1,815	10,995	17,419	508,921
WA	54%	100%	-0-	7,258	50,468	46,764	279,721	420	12,164	11,027	396,795
WY	74%	81%	-0-	9,327	23,515	22,551	100,670	2,690	1,068	21,893	159,821
TOTAL	47%	83%	4,028	45,087	402,332	369,285	968,793	7,048	27,397	79,192	1,823,970
REG. TOTALS	56%	78%	$ 79,068	$616,780	$5,996,151	$ 9,472,372	$18,373,644	$204,208	$253,170	$1,406,624	$34,995,393
FOREIGN											
Canada	62%	0%	-0-	371	100	2,521	250	-0-	(2)	-0-	3,242
France	50%	0%	-0-	3,038	8,992	3,750	16,606	-0-	(2)	1,947	32,386
Mexico	88%	0%	-0-	510	3,734	2,120	1,720	-0-	(2)	1,112	8,084
Philippines	0%	0%	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(2)	-0-	-0-
Italy	0%	0%	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(2)	-0-	-0-
Costa Rica	0%	0%	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	(2)	-0-	-0-
Total-Foreign	11%	0%	-0-	3,919	12,826	8,391	18,576	-0-	-0-	3,059	43,712
SUBTOTAL	55%	77%	$ 79,068	620,699	$6,008,977	$9,480,763	$18,392,220	$204,208	$253,170	$1,409,683	$35,039,105

(1) No report submitted
(2) Not organized in the Department

Add:

Contributed to Child Welfare Foundation by National Auxiliary	$	12,412
Children & Youth Division by National Auxiliary		20,000
Child Welfare Foundation by National Eight and Forty		3,045
Children & Youth Division by National Eight and Forty		3,000
Other programs dealing with children by National Eight and Forty		5,900
Child Welfare Foundation by individuals		100,178
Bequests to Child Welfare Foundation		2,898
C.W.F. by Sons of The American Legion		40,024
GRAND TOTAL		$35,226,562

TABLE NO. 2
EXPENDITURES FROM NATIONAL TEMPORARY FINANCIAL AID FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS

	1926-35	1936-45	1946-55	1956-65	1966-75	1975-87	Last 7 mos. 1987	First 5 mos. 1988	Grand Total
Alabama	$ 15,281.65	$ 13,899.68	$ 27,466.26	$ 23,700.80	$ 19,672.79	$ 65,349.66	$ 4,250.00	$ 1,610.00	$ 171,230.84
Alaska	—	—	627.56	1,000.00	950.00	1,200.00	—	—	3,777.56
Arizona	17,587.40	8,474.30	5,094.00	3,658.00	250.00	34,830.31	5,950.00	2,500.00	78,344.01
Arkansas	9,845.20	24,028.00	20,999.22	4,963.00	100.00	4,034.95	600.00	1,010.97	65,581.34
California	25,558.18	4,547.97	13,231.40	2,795.05	800.00	750.00	300.00	—	47,982.60
Colorado	26,956.23	14,664.88	17,360.78	5,257.33	770.00	1,275.00	—	250.00	66,534.22
Connecticut	160.00	1,694.00	350.00	90.00	—	450.00	—	—	2,744.00
Delaware	1,025.00	1,010.00	825.00	175.00	150.00	325.00	—	—	3,510.00
D. of C.	1,790.00	780.00	983.50	220.00	—	600.00	—	—	4,373.50
Florida	16,607.28	16,734.00	24,207.50	1,313.00	—	2,880.00	—	—	61,741.78
Georgia	14,839.50	55,054.57	51,448.42	34,596.00	4,015.00	1,700.00	550.00	600.00	162,803.49
Hawaii	450.00	420.00	—	—	—	900.00	—	—	1,770.00
Idaho	3,641.00	3,952.50	2,721.00	3,050.85	4,071.97	4,300.00	400.00	400.00	22,537.32
Illinois	11,943.25	18,277.54	3,211.53	1,132.00	1,078.11	10,572.75	1,650.00	350.00	48,215.18
Indiana	24,906.08	6,944.00	4,213.40	4,853.00	190.00	3,930.00	2,050.00	600.00	47,686.48
Iowa	15,833.58	1,659.50	407.00	190.00	773.45	3,155.00	—	—	22,668.53
Kansas	9,552.50	11,214.30	31,565.87	10,498.48	4,273.00	5,525.00	1,075.00	250.00	73,954.15
Kentucky	13,922.00	9,921.50	15,488.90	30,039.00	28,540.66	47,704.30	3,100.00	5,350.00	154,066.36
Louisiana	12,554.00	10,846.50	24,376.30	14,078.00	1,208.00	3,137.00	—	—	66,199.80
Maine	2,564.94	1,054.00	889.90	1,020.36	—	2,676.55	—	—	8,205.75
Maryland	3,862.00	2,025.00	2,430.57	960.00	358.00	3,645.00	—	—	13,280.57
Massachusetts	2,064.50	690.00	455.00	—	—	450.00	—	—	3,659.50
Michigan	12,709.48	11,185.85	20,653.85	12,627.39	9,719.46	6,416.60	300.00	300.00	73,912.63
Minnesota	6,516.00	2,094.77	14,908.19	8,414.60	2,327.23	11,670.00	—	600.00	46,530.79
Mississippi	16,509.00	23,784.63	30,843.14	32,411.00	37,582.00	91,185.99	940.00	1,425.00	234,680.76
Missouri	18,047.08	35,026.00	33,824.64	13,975.00	7,231.76	5,750.00	450.00	250.00	114,554.48
Montana	5,099.25	315.00	744.50	924.35	365.00	1,849.30	1,597.50	300.00	11,194.90
Nebraska	14,091.20	4,378.90	7,479.25	10,316.43	14,111.06	6,196.00	—	—	56,572.84
Nevada	390.00	195.00	566.00	200.00	1,978.00	5,894.00	—	—	9,223.00
New Hampshire	2,562.00	1,688.50	4,791.50	150.00	—	250.00	350.00	600.00	10,392.00
New Jersey	7,163.68	1,831.85	1,701.00	245.00	600.00	5,872.73	750.00	350.00	18,514.26
New Mexico	11,473.72	8,600.58	25,665.74	27,433.00	19,145.00	42,598.99	2,898.00	1,965.00	139,780.03
New York	4,547.97	3,339.57	3,411.00	1,392.00	300.00	1,250.00	—	—	14,240.54
North Carolina	12,230.50	34,367.00	52,708.00	28,311.60	3,705.00	7,785.00	850.00	600.00	140,557.10
North Dakota	13,204.37	12,813.08	8,138.21	3,650.00	2,083.01	5,454.31	933.40	300.00	46,576.38
Ohio	16,220.00	7,710.43	3,360.50	1,755.75	1,690.00	10,816.54	400.00	834.00	42,787.22
Oklahoma	24,955.05	15,503.00	26,118.77	39,287.70	46,835.00	58,721.03	5,750.00	3,150.00	220,320.55
Oregon	855.00	395.50	6,190.65	7,559.50	3,178.00	22,617.95	1,330.00	—	42,126.60
Panama	105.00	570.00	234.00	300.00	—	600.00	—	—	1,809.00
Pennsylvania	19,239.41	3,608.00	434.00	217.00	435.00	27,544.85	2,920.00	2,060.00	56,458.26
Puerto Rico	5,671.00	11,386.00	27,210.00	30,544.00	49,304.50	10,575.00	600.00	1,720.00	137,010.50
Rhode Island	1,277.00	285.00	1,641.00	—	760.00	650.00	—	—	4,613.00
South Carolina	29,589.20	38,863.85	16,780.54	9,912.80	2,936.07	2,682.93	—	—	100,765.39
South Dakota	19,555.89	22,874.38	13,405.05	2,957.00	—	725.00	—	—	59,517.32
Tennessee	12,211.52	18,933.25	29,403.20	25,210.00	5,604.50	19,015.37	3,000.00	4,300.00	117,677.84
Texas	11,239.50	24,134.00	31,879.35	15,513.08	12,856.00	17,578.50	850.00	—	114,050.43
Utah	3,435.00	7,690.48	3,248.00	—	—	1,400.00	2,150.25	300.00	18,223.73
Vermont	1,559.50	265.00	9,026.50	225.00	—	—	—	—	11,076.00
Virginia	19,219.86	26,090.45	26,449.78	1,588.00	9,768.00	11,514.00	—	—	94,630.09
Washington	3,033.00	345.00	427.50	—	—	225.00	—	—	4,030.50
West Virginia	20,276.98	7,353.00	5,801.00	5,594.94	650.00	3,210.00	—	—	42,885.92
Wisconsin	9,561.68	6,320.30	2,542.00	5,525.25	2,116.00	8,062.00	250.00	850.00	35,227.23
Wyoming	6,885.00	1,295.00	793.00	1,200.00	—	1,350.00	—	—	11,523.00
Other Departments	200.00	360.00	173.50	—	—	—	—	—	733.50
Total	$580,077.34[1]	$541,495.61	$658,906.47	$431,030.26	$302,481.57	$588,851.61[2]	$46,594.15	$33,124.97	$3,163,062.77[1]

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[1] Includes $19,499.21 for the year 1926 — Department totals not available.

[2] Includes 1st 5 months of 1986.

TABLE NO. 3

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WW II, KOREAN, VIETNAM AND WORLD WAR I VETERANS RECEIVING AID FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION

	No. WW II Children	No. Korean Children	No. Vietnam Children	No. WW I Children
6-1-87 to 5-31-88	41 (6.65%)	68 (10.97%)	510 (82.38%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-86 to 5-31-87	28 (4.60%)	60 (9.85%)	521 (85.55%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-85 to 5-31-86	29 (4.54%)	114 (17.84%)	496 (77.62%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-84 to 5-31-85	57 (9.27%)	114 (18.53%)	444 (72.16%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-83 to 5-31-84	56 (8.8%)	125 (19.60%)	457 (71.60%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-82 to 5-31-83	40 (5.9%)	158 (23.30%)	480 (70.80%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-81 to 5-31-82	51 (14.36%)	80 (22.54%)	224 (63.10%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-80 to 5-31-81	65 (14.74%)	125 (28.34%)	251 (56.92%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-79 to 5-31-80	94 (21.81%)	58 (13.46%)	279 (64.73%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-78 to 5-31-79	111 (27.54%)	101 (25.06%)	191 (47.40%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-77 to 5-31-78	198 (30.33%)	215 (32.92%)	240 (36.75%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-76 to 5-31-77	216 (38.30%)	140 (24.82%)	208 (36.88%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-75 to 5-31-76	177 (29.70%)	233 (39.09%)	186 (31.21%)	3 (.57%)
6-1-74 to 5-31-75	189 (36.00%)	208 (39.62%)	218 (41.52%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-73 to 5-31-74	248 (36.69%)	334 (49.41%)	94 (13.90%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-72 to 5-31-73	204 (43.59%)	150 (32.05%)	114 (24.36%)	1 (.13%)
6-1-71 to 5-31-72	360 (46.15%)	309 (39.62%)	110 (14.10%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-69 to 5-31-70	749 (53.32%)	417 (39.00%)	82 (7.68%)	4 (.34%)
6-1-68 to 5-31-69	706 (61.49%)	414 (33.99%)	51 (4.18%)	3 (.27%)
6-1-67 to 5-31-68	875 (61.66%)	390 (34.06%)	46 (4.01%)	4 (.29%)
6-1-66 to 5-31-67	1,024 (64.02%)	463 (33.86%)	25 (1.83%)	0 (.00%)
6-1-65 to 5-31-66	1,147 (72.86%)	384 (27.06%)	11 (.08%)	1 (.07%)
6-1-64 to 5-31-65	1,091 (82.11%)	249 (17.82%)		2 (.15%)
6-1-63 to 5-31-64	1,099 (79.86%)	273 (19.99%)		1 (.07%)
6-1-62 to 5-31-63	1,077 (78.73%)	296 (21.20%)		8 (.61%)
6-1-61 to 5-31-62	1,329 (82.47%)	221 (16.92%)		10 (.62%)
6-1-60 to 5-31-61	1,716 (83.59%)	251 (15.79%)		15 (.74%)
6-1-59 to 5-31-60	2,536 (84.99%)	288 (14.27%)		53 (1.78%)
6-1-58 to 5-31-59	1,589 (85.16%)	389 (13.06%)		47 (2.47%)
5-1-57 to 5-31-58	2,050 (86.78%)	195 (10.65%)		39 (1.70%)
6-1-56 to 5-31-57	1,713 (89.32%)	206 (8.98%)		47 (2.47%)
6-1-55 to 5-31-56	1,579 (90.06%)	142 (7.47%)		118 (6.40%)
6-1-54 to 5-31-55	2,098 (85.68%)	146 (7.92%)		250 (10.05%)
5-1-53 to 5-31-54	2,519 (84.32%)	140 (5.63%)		238 (8.22%)
5-1-52 to 5-31-53	2,050 (87.12%)	135 (4.66%)		341 (14.03%)
5-1-51 to 4-30-52	1,481 (84.36%)	39 (1.61%)		290 (16.33%)
5-1-50 to 4-30-51	1,506 (83.39%)	5 (.28%)		265 (14.96%)
7-1-49 to 4-30-50	1,584 (85.04%)			435 (21.55%)
7-1-48 to 6-30-49	1,796 (78.45%)			665 (27.02%)
7-1-47 to 6-30-48	1,218 (72.98%)			1,090 (47.23%)
7-1-46 to 6-30-47	785 (52.77%)			1,006 (56.17%)
Prior to 7-1-46	590 (43.83%)			

TABLE NO. 5

Printed Material Furnished Upon Request During Period June 1, 1987 through May 31, 1988

Annual Children & Youth Program Piece	33,142
Unity Awards	42,474
Children Beware	108,629
April Is Children & Youth Month	38,028
American Legion Child Welfare Foundation	69,895
Children & Youth on the Rocks	107,965
Fingerprint Cards	1,150
Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night	30,075
Parent's Guide to Marijuana	108,340
Cocaine	130,759
Special Olympics Program Guide	20,582
Special Post Activity Award	23,040
TFA Applications	673
TFA Brochures	26,795
Warning Signs — Suicide Prevention	112,653
Citations:	
Annual Children & Youth Citations	3,658
Certificate of Meritorious Service	119
National Achievement Award	71
Special Children & Youth Citations	890
Star Certificate of Excellence	29
Star Certificate of Participation	59
Reporting:	
Tally Sheet	1,073
Unit Report Form	9,460
We Want a Report from Your Unit or Salon	6,345
TOTAL	875,961

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

U.S. "UDIE" GRANT, Kansas, *President*

PAUL R. FRINSTHAL, Illinois, *Executive Secretary*

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., has established itself as one of this nation's leading advocates for the future well-being of our children and youth. As a separate corporation from The American Legion, the Foundation, since its incorporation in 1954, has made grants totaling just over 2.4 million dollars. These grants have been made to nonprofit, youth-oriented agencies and organizations across the nation. To qualify for such grants, projects must fall into one of the following categories:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and
2. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

Since its beginning, 34 years ago, the Foundation has received over two million dollars in contributions, primarily from members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty. The Foundation has always been of the opinion that it is better to prevent many of the physical and social ills confronting our nation's youth than to try to correct the problem after it has already occurred. The Child Welfare Foundation became an official part of The American Legion's Children and Youth Program in 1986.

On May 9, 1988, the Foundation's Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Indiana, to consider 23 grant applications for grants totaling $883,000. These grant requests were made from all parts of the country, and they represented many excellent programs to benefit the children and youth of this country. During this meeting, grants totaling $311,600 were awarded to eleven voluntary, nonprofit organizations who are actively engaged in helping our youngest generation. Without the continued support of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as the Eight and Forty, such assistance would not be possible. The following grants were awarded for the 1988–89 granting year:

The Aberdeen American Legion Post No. 59 of Aberdeen, Idaho, was awarded a grant of $58,000 for their project entitled, "Am I The Only One?" Its a continuance of their grant last year, they now will distribute their outstanding booklet nationwide. Helping children who have been sexually abused is the central theme of this grant.

The Aplastic Anemia Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland, was awarded a grant of $24,500 for their two year project entitled, "Aplastic Anemia: Educating the Public and Professional." Their material will stress observance of Aplastic Anemia Week held the first week in December, and to print more pamphlets about this problem for better understanding by society.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was awarded a grant of $61,300 for their project entitled, "Project EMPOWER." The materials they will print and disseminate nationwide will deal with such problems as how to protect children from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Children will learn how to protect themselves from adults who violate their trust.

The Children's hospital of Pittsburgh of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was awarded a grant of $35,500 for their project entitled, "Children's Hospital Injury Prevention & Safety Program." They will implement a program designed to prevent accidents common to children everywhere. Parents will learn about high risk children and high risk activities.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America of Landover, Maryland, was awarded a grant of $10,400 for their project entitled, "A Babysitter's Guide" This booklet will educate babysitters about how to recognize and give general first aid for the various types of seizures. Over 50,000 copies of this brochure will be printed and distributed nationally.

The International Rett Syndrome Association of Fort Washington, Maryland, was awarded a grant of $9,000 for their project entitled, "Project Awareness: What is Rett Syndrome?" This project will aim its support to parents through direct telephone contact, parent networking, quarterly newsletters, and through various publications designed to educate others about Rett.

The National Crime Prevention Council of Washington, D.C., was awarded a grant of $13,000 for their project entitled, "Charting Success: A Teen Workbook on Developing Crime Prevention and Community Service Programs." They will develop material that will involve the teen in crime prevention through his/her school and community.

The National Jewish Center for Immunology and respiratory Medicine of Denver, Colorado, was awarded a grant of $25,500 for their project entitled, "Pediatric Asthma Videotape Series." They will develop three videotapes about Asthma and distribute them nationwide. Their goal is to educate more people, both public and professional, about this problem.

The National Marfan Foundation of Port Washington, New York, was awarded a grant of $18,800 for their project entitled, "School Awareness About Marfan Syndrome". This grant will develop materials to alert coaches and physical education teachers about the characteristics of Marfan and how early detection can help these children live a normal life.

The Near Eastside Multi-Service Center, Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded a grant of $5,600 for their project entitled, "Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment Services Prevention." This project is aimed at helping low and low middle income families deal with and work through the devastating problem of drug abuse in the family. Materials and presentations will be developed.

The Adam Walsh Child Resource Center of West Palm Beach, Florida, was awarded a grant of $50,000 for their project entitled, "Kids and Company: Together for Safety." This program is community based and designed to educate children and teachers about how to live safer lives. Teachers' guides, student brochures and videos will be available along with a parent's resource kit.

Officers of the Board are U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas, President; W.H. Redman, Oklahoma, Vice President Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota, Secretary; W.D. Harrell, Georgia, Treasurer. Members of the corporation include: W. Calvitt Bradwell, South Carolina; L. Eldon James, Virginia; C.B. Knight, Louisiana; George W. Boucek, Illinois; and James P. Holley, Texas.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary liaison Committee include Mrs. Viola Moltzen, Chairman; Mrs. Maxine Bigalow, Vice Chairman and Mrs. Ruby Paul, Member.

Members of the Eight and Forty Liaison Committee include Mrs. Kitty Patterson, La Chapeau; Mrs. Edith Still, Demi Chapeau and Mrs. Virginia Kates, Children & Youth Chairman.

Members of the Sons of the American Legion Liaison Committee include James Arter, Chairman; Charles Yunker, Vice Chairman and William Murphy III, Member.

Appointed personnel consists of Paul R. Frinsthal, Executive Secretary and Webber LaGrange, Assistant Treasurer.

The future of this Foundation depends on the generosity of our volunteers. We cannot continue to make grants, like those listed above, without their help. Particularly, we wish to single out the hundreds who made Memorial Contributions in the name of a deceased loved one. In doing so, they create a living memorial that will provide help for many children for many years to come.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the Foundation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests to the Foundation are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

CONVENTION COMMISSION

JAMES J. CHARLESTON, Illinois, *Chairman*

ROBERT P. RADKE, Ohio, *Director*

The 69th National Convention of The American Legion was held at San Antonio, Texas, August 21st through August 27th, 1987. The Convention was the best attended in recent years and was most successful. City officials and the local Convention Corporation provided excellent facilities and attendees enjoyed the hospitality and the many great features of this city.

The American Legion Festival '87 held at La Villita Village, old San Antonio, proved to be a popular family affair and was attended by approximately 20,000 participants. Due to the success of this event the past two years, a festival will be held again this year in Louisville.

Commission Meetings

The Commission met three times during the year, at the National Convention at San Antonio, Texas in August 1987; at the Fall meetings of The American Legion in October, 1987 and at the Spring meetings in May, 1988. Various aspects of prospective Convention city requirements were discussed with both long and short term implications considered. Changes in the Convention Requirements Booklet and in the geographic selection site process will be considered when necessary, however, both areas seem to be working quite well at present.

City Selection Process

When a city shows interest in submitting a bid to hold a national Convention, a site inspection team made up of members of the Convention Commission and the Convention Director visit the city. After a complete inspection of all meeting facilities and hotels has been made, a written report is submitted to the entire Convention Commission at its Spring meeting. Each city that has expressed a desire to host a Convention is invited to make a presentation on behalf of their city to the full Convention Commission. All bids received by the Commission are then considered and a vote is taken as to which city will be selected. A recommendation is then made by the Commission to the National Executive Committee. Upon approval by the National Executive Committee, a tentative award is made to the city. At the Spring meeting, approximately sixteen months prior to the Convention, a final award is made and a contract is signed with the approved Local Legion Convention Corporation.

Awards currently made are:

Louisville, Kentucky September 2-8, 1988
Baltimore, Maryland September 1-7, 1989

Tentative awards are:

Indianapolis, Indiana August 24-30, 1990
Phoenix, Arizona August 30-September 5, 1991
Chicago, Illinois August 28-September 3, 1992
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania September 3-9, 1993

Other cities bidding for a National Convention include Minneapolis, Minnesota; Detroit, Michigan; Cincinnati, Ohio; New Orleans, Louisiana; Portland, Oregon; Anaheim, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Denver, Colorado.

Uniform Group Contests

Uniform group contests were held in San Antonio, Texas for Senior Bands and Senior Color Guards. Five (5) Senior Bands competed, as did thirteen (13) Senior Color Guard Units. The competitions were highly competitive, well attended and insure that contests will continue to be held at future Conventions as long as sufficient interest is shown.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

ALLEN L. TITUS, Indiana, *Chairman*

The Distinguished Guest Committee operates under the umbrella of the Convention Commission and is directed to assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of those persons invited to attend the National Convention as distinguished guests.

The Committee arranges transportation requirements for their travel and departure and also provides such services to the various events which the guest wishes to attend.

Proper credentials, agendas, itineraries and other necessary details are all part of this operation and special requests are honored, when possible.

The Distinguished Guest Committee operates from the Legion's headquarters hotel. The facility is the nerve center for all of the Committee's operations and is also maintained as a convenience and central locator for all of the distinguished guests.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

Bruce Thiesen, California, *Chairman*

Dennis K. Rhoodes, Virginia, *Director*

The following report covers the programs, activities and accomplishments of the National Economic Commission, its affiliated Committees, and the staff for the period from July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988.

A total of twenty-seven (27) resolutions pertaining to the program have been assigned or referred to the Economic Commission since our last annual report. An analysis of these resolutions as to source and type is below:

Twenty-one (21) resolutions were approved from the 1987 National Convention;

Three (3) resolutions were referred from the 1987 National Convention to the Economics Commission;

One (1) register resolution was referred from the October 14-15, 1987 Meeting of the National Executive Committee; and

Two (2) additional resolutions recommended by the National Economic Commission were approved by the National Executive Committee.

Approved 1987 National Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 11.—Seeks legislation to remove the VA requirement that a veteran will remain liable for a VA guaranteed loan where such loan as assumed by another purchaser unless he or she obtains a Release from Liability from the buyer.

The American Legion testified before the Veterans Affairs Committees of the Congress on three separate occasions between June and December of 1987, advocating changes in the assumption liability provisions of the VA Home Loan Guaranty statute. As a result, P.L. 100-198, passed in January, included a substantial amendment to the law governing loan assumptions. Under the new law, any buyer wishing to assume a VA mortgage must undergo a credit check, after which the veteran is automatically released from liability for the loan. If the veteran and the buyer agree to forego such a credit check, the veteran must sign a statement in which he or she acknowledges that his own personal liability for the loan will continue.

Resolution No. 84.—Seeks the development of explicit and uniform standards for the application of veterans preference where the aptitude testing procedure, known as Validity Generalization, is used as a tool for referral of applicants to job orders in State Employment Service (ES) offices. In September 1987, the Director was appointed to a special liaison subcommittee for a National Academy of Sciences workshop, which is conducting a study of Validity Generalization, as well as the General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB) on which it is based. The study was requested by the Department of Labor in connection with a dispute with the Justice Department over the addition of certain "weights" to the test scores of minority applicants. Although the issue of weights is the principal thrust of the study, the Academy is also responsible for studying the application of veterans preference in ES offices utilizing the Validity Generalization system. In April 1988, the Director met with Academy staff and outlined the Legion's concerns, furnishing the Academy with a copy of Resolution No. 84. Future testimony before a formal hearing is anticipated in August 1988.

Resolution No. 102.—Urges Congress to adjust the amount of funding provided to veterans employment programs under title IVC of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

Veterans employment programs under title IVC of the Job Training Partnership Act are funded according to a formula based upon the amount of resources appropriated for JTPA as a whole. Since the Congress dealt almost exclusively with a new dislocated workers program, and found itself embroiled in controversy over the Trade Bill, the JTPA program as a whole was not under consideration for amendment during the 1988 legislative season.

Resolution No. 111.—Opposes any weakening of the State Employment Security Agency (SESA) system and its priority services to veterans through defederalization. The American Legion has given priority attention to this issue, known as "devaluation" for the past several years. After assisting in efforts urging Congress to reject devaluation legislation introduced last year, the National Economic Commission turned its attention to revising chapter 41 of Title 38, United States Code (USC), which serves as the authorizing statute for most veterans employment programs, particularly services to veterans provided by the SESA system. The American Legion played a major role in the development of legislation which became P.L. 100-323 in June 1988. The new law provides for major reform of federally mandated employment services for veterans. Several of its provisions were written specifically to assure that veterans would continue to receive priority services through the SESAs, regardless of changes, short of total abolition, which might be imposed on the Employment Service. The new legislation provides stable veterans staffing for the SESAs, as well as greater accountability to the service requirements mandated by chapter 41. A new definition of local "employment service office" was developed to ensure that if SESAs are combined or absorbed by other state or local entities, such as those funded by the Job Training Partnership Act, veterans will continue to receive the same service priorities as currently exist. In addition, the Commission is mindful of administrative changes in the Employment Service now taking place in many states, and is working with Legion Department officials to make certain that the interests of veterans are protected.

Resolution No. 127.—Requests legislation to establish the criteria for an assignment of Local Veterans Employment Representatives by statute, that such LVERs become functionally responsible to the Department of Labor's State Directors for Veterans Employment, and that should the State Employment Service become defederalized, that LVERs and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) representatives be converted to Federal employees.

P.L. 100-323 established the number of Local Veterans Employment Representatives to be Federally funded at 1600 positions nationwide. This provision, actively advocated by the Legion during both the 99th and 100th Congresses, will halt efforts by the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the size of the LVER pogrom. The new law also provides for greater accountability of both LVERs and DVOP personnel to the State Directors, through the establishment of performance standards and quarterly reports.

Resolution No. 136.—Urges the provision of adequate funding to support both the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) and the State Employment Security Agency system.

Representatives of The American Legion testified before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees considering recommendations which these Committees were to make to their respective Budget Committees. In addition, the Legion testified before both Congressional Appropriations Committees. As a result of these efforts, considerable success has been achieved both in bolstering the regular Wagner-Peyser appropriations for the operation of the Employment Service in general, as well as the VETS budget. The Administration had proposed a FY '89 funding level for the Employment Service of $678 million, a reduction of 10% in real dollars from FY 1987 levels. Both the House and Senate have rejected the reduction, and have provided for a funding level of $773 million. The American Legion also worked diligently to assure that additional funding required by the passage of P.L. 100-323 has been included in the final appropriations bill in the Senate.

Resolution No. 154.—Asks that the National Veterans Training Institute, established administratively by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, be mode a permanent institution under Federal statute. P.L. 100-323 established a National Veterans Employment and Training Institute under chapter 41 of Title 38, USC.

Resolution No. 186.—Urges that sufficient funds and employees be made available to transfer enforcement of veterans affirmative action requirements for federal contractors, from the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCCP) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

This resolution was transmitted to the Secretary of Labor. The Department of Labor responded by defending the record of OFCCP in enforcing the requirements of chapter 42, Title 38 United States Code, and rejected the proposal for transfer set forth in the resolution. Staff of the National Economic Commission is currently working on a legislative proposal to revise chapter 42 and to effect such a transfer, as a part of follow up legislation to P.L. 100-323.

Resolution No. 273.—Mandates Legion support for a viable VA Home Loan program: to be provided, as it has historically, at no additional cost to the veteran. The resolution also supports legislation to exempt the Home Loan program from the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act.

During 1987-1988 the National Economic Commission intensified its attention on the financially troubled VA Home Loan program, which during 1988 will operate at a $2 billion deficit. During the period, the Legion testified on three different occasions before Congressional committees regarding the deficit problem and possible solutions. On January 15, 1988 the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee heard a presentation from commission staff regarding the VA Home Loan program budget. As a result of that meeting, the National Executive Committee on May 4, 1988, passed Resolution No. 17, which formalized a Legion proposal to cure the program's fiscal crisis. (See National Executive Committee resolutions below).

Resolution No. 278.—Mandates support of The American Legion for the Small Business Administration (SBA), including effective "special consideration" for veterans, their survivors and dependents.

The Director continues to serve on the SBA's veterans advisory committee which provides oversight and guidance to the agency in its services to veterans, through the SBA Office of Veterans Affairs.

Resolution No. 291.—Urges the Secretary of Labor to conduct a complete review of policy and programmatic decision making, so as to assure that the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training is a part of any and all decision making processes within the Department of Labor which will affect services to veterans.

Responding to the resolution, Secretary of Labor Ann D. McLoughlin stated that "the Department of Labor has weekly, or more frequently if required meetings of the Executive Staff as well as Policy Review Board of which principal policy and programmatic decisions are made. The Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET) participates fully in all discussions and decisions." P.L. 100-323, contains an explicit provision which mandates that "except as expressly provided otherwise, (the Secretary). . . shall carry out all provisions of. . . (chapter 41). . . and chapter 43 of. . . (Title 38). . . through the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training. . . and administer through such Assistant Secretary all programs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for the provision of employment and training services designed to meet the needs of disabled veterans, veterans of the Vietnam era, and all other eligible veterans and eligible persons. . ."

Resolution No. 322.—Seeks legislation to require that veterans preference apply to temporary and other excepted appointments to Federal employment.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has expressed its support for the use of veterans preference in temporary employment, limited, however, to special hiring authorities under the Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action (DVAAP) program and Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA). The Commission staff is continuing to work with OPM and the Congress to assure that veterans preference is observed in all Federal employment. P.L. 100-323, which mandates the ASVET to monitor Federal agency hiring practices and report violations of veterans preference to OPM, should help to promote veterans preference in temporary and excepted appointments.

Resolution No. 344.—Mandates The American Legion to seek legislation to amend the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) to provide for (1) veteran service organization representation on Private Industry Councils and State Job Coordinating Councils; (2) special targeting of veterans to provide priority of service under the Act; and (3) clear authority for the U.S. Department of Labor, through the ASVET to monitor JTPA programs.

Much of the legislative activity involving JTPA centered on the Workers Readjustment Act Program (WRAP) which is designed to serve displaced workers. (See Resolution No. 399). The Commission was able to act, however, on the third resolution mandate pertaining to monitoring. P.L. 100-323 provides that the ASVET shall promote and monitor services to veterans under JTPA. This provision is included under the revisions of chapter 41, Title 38, USC, and is considered a major expansion of the scope of that statute, which had previously addressed only the State Employment Security Agency system. The Commission believes that not only will promotion of veterans programs increase their participation in JTPA, but that monitoring authority will permit the ASVET to collect information and data demonstrating to the Congress the inadequacy of JTPA services for veterans.

Resolution No. 359.—Supports the use of Special Hiring Authorities by Federal Agencies.

In an April 1, 1988 letter to the Commission's director, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) states that "we can assure you that OPM firmly supports the use of veterans preference and veterans employment programs; in particular, the special appointing authorities that OPM has established for 30 percent or more disabled veterans or Vietnam era veterans." The Director has sent a memorandum to the nation's five Federal Executive Boards asking promotion of employment for 30 percent or more disabled veterans and use of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority. OPM has also issued new flyers and a four page brochure encouraging Federal managers to use the special appointment authorities.

Resolution No. 363.—Supports the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

After a serious challenge to its existence during 1986, the President's Committee on People with Disabilities (formerly President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped) has now stabilized and has begun on ambitious new program of outreach, public information and research. The Committee on Disabled Veterans, on which the Legion is represented, continues to address a full agenda of issues of particular concern to disabled veterans. The American Legion is also represented on the full Committee's Executive Board.

Resolution No. 398.—Seeks establishment in law of the position of Regional Administrator for Veterans Employment and Training (RAVET).

Unlike other agencies within the Department of Labor, the field operation of the OASVET was divided into seven regional areas, rather than ten, resulting in heavier workloads, and diminished services for veterans. P.L. 100-323 fully met the provisions of this resolution by creating in stature the position of Regional Administrator in each Federal region where the Department of Labor operates a regional office.

Resolution No. 399.—Mandates The American Legion to: (1) seek the targeting of veterans in any national program for dislocated workers; (2)request the ASVET to research the problems of dislocated workers who are veterans; (3) seek legislation to waive the unemployment eligibility criterion for dislocated workers desiring to participate in the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA).

The Administration's billion dollar Workers Readjustment Act program (WRAP) was a part of the controversial Trade Bill, vetoed by the President in June of 1988 over the issue of plant closure notification. The Legion worked closely with the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in developing provisions for veterans under the WRAP program, which were later eliminated in conference. Passage of some form of the WRAP program is expected, however, and the Commission will seek administrative measures to assure equitable services to veterans under the new program. The Legion also worked with the Senate in providing for a waiver of the unemployment criterion in the reauthorization of VJTA which was a part of S. 999. In conferencing the bill, however, House Veterans Affairs Committee opposition to the waiver resulted in its exclusion from the final measure which become P.L. 100-323.

Resolution No. 425.—Places The American Legion on record supporting Veterans Preference in Federal, state and local government employment. The staff of the Economic Commission continues to monitor the use of veterans preference in Federal employment, and works closely with the Office of Personnel Management, serving on its Veterans Advisory Committee. The Commission is also engaged in seeking information and data in preparation for the development of a comprehensive manual on veterans preference for use by Legion departments and posts.

Resolution No. 428.—Mandates The American Legion to support and to participate in programs to aid homeless veterans.

The Economic Commission continued to work with the Office of Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training which operates the "Jobs for Homeless Veterans" (JHV) program. Early in 1988, JHV received $1.9 million as a part of the Stewart McKinney Homelessness Act program, and is currently expanding its program to 40 major cities.

Resolution No. 437.—Supports reauthorization of the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA) as a permanent program, to be funded at a level of not less than$75 million per year.

Working with the Congress, The American Legion was successful in obtaining a two year reauthorization of the VJTA program at $60 million per year. The reauthorization was part of P.L. 100-323. Owing to a number of extraneous factors, however, including the budget summit agreement contained in HJ Res. 395, as well as the lateness in final passage of P.L. 100-323, funding prospects for VJTA during most of the fiscal year 1989 are poor.

Resolution No. 450.—Opposes contracting out of Federal jobs reserved by law for veterans.

Contracting out of guard, elevator operator, messenger and custodial positions by Federal agencies under direction of the Office of Management and Budget continues to be a problem which Economic Commission staff addresses, chiefly through work with affected individuals at Federal facilities.

Referred 1987 Convention Resolutions

Resolution No. 55 (CO).—Opposed veterans with dishonorable discharges being eligible for the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) program.

At the October 1987 meeting of the National Executive Committee, the Economic Commission held this resolution for further study. At its May 4, 1988 meeting, the

National Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Economic Commission to reject this resolution.

Resolution No. 320 (OK).—Would widen eligibility for employment services accorded to veterans by State Employment Security Agencies to members of the National Guard and Reserve.

At the October 1987 meeting of the National Executive Committee, the Economic Commission held this resolution for further study. At its May 4, 1988 meeting, the National Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Economic Commission to reject this resolution.

Resolution No. 310 (OK).—Mandated support of Veterans Employment programs under the Wagner-Peyser Act and the Job Training Partnership Act.

At its October 14, 1987 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the Economic Commission's recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded as covered by current resolutions.

Referred Register Resolutions

Resolution No. 2175 (PA).—Opposes use of computer generated determination of eligibility for Postal Service employment examinations, termed OPTEX.

This resolution was passed by the National Executive Committee at its October 14, 1988 meeting, upon recommendation of the Economic Commission. The American Legion wrote Postmaster General Preston Tisch regarding the organization's opposition to the OPTEX system. Tisch replied, defending the system, stating that in the opinion of the Postal Service, OPTFX did not violate the veterans preference requirements contained in Title 5, United States Code. The Commission, however, finds the Postal Service's position unacceptable, and is becoming increasingly concerned over the compliance of the agency with veterans preference. Last year, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management stated that OPM had no jurisdiction over Postal Service hiring practices, and that the latter organization was, in effect, self-policing. National Executive Committee Resolutions

Resolution No. 32.—Seeks legislation to strike the December 31, 1988 delimiting date definition of Vietnam era veteran from chapter 42 of Title 38, United States Code.

The Economic Commission has communicated the intent of this resolution to both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, as well as to the Department of Labor. Committee staff in Congress have indicated a willingness to examine this issue as a part of legislation to revise chapter 42.

Resolution No. 17.—Advocates the development of a portfolio of direct and vendee loans to provide an income source for the VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program.

The National Executive Committee approved this resolution, based upon a recommendation from the Economic Commission, on May 4, 1988. The resolution grew out of recommendations made by the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee which met in January 1988 to consider the troubled VA Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund (1-GRF). The resolution was transmitted to the VA for comment.

A June 16, 1988 hearing of the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans Affairs Committee was conducted to explore solutions to the financial problems of the LGRF. The Legion's proposal was presented at that hearing, along with comments on other alternative solutions.

Meetings of the Economic Commission

Members of the Economic Commission and its two affiliated Committees have held four meetings during the 1987-88 year as follows:

1) Forty-eight (48) members of the Economic Commission and the two affiliated Committees met in Plaza C and D, South Meeting Rooms Level of the Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, on August 22, 1987, preceding the 69th Annual National Convention. The report of this meeting, made to the National Executive Committee (NEC) on August 27, 1987, appears on pages 23-24 of the proceedings of the pre- and post-convention meetings of the NEC to the Convention.

2) A report of the fourteen (14) member Commission meeting of the Economic Commission at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 14-15, 1987, begins on page 49 of the October 1987 Proceedings of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

3) In conjunction with the 28th Annual Washington Conference, an executive session of the Economic Commission, composed of thirty (30) members of the Commission and its affiliated Committees, met on February 29-March 1, 1988, at the Washington Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C. the proceedings of the

May 1988 Meeting of the National Executive Committee contains a detailed report in the Advance Report of the Economic Commission of actions taken at this meeting.

4) Eight (8) members of the Economic Commission and its Committees met May 4–5, 1987, at National Headquarters, Indianapolis. Proceedings of the National Executive Committee meeting of May 6–7, 1988, contains a report on this Commission meeting.

Employer of the Year for Hiring Veterans

On Tuesday, March 2, the members of a special committee to select the 1987 winners of the Employer of the year for Hiring Veterans award, given each year at the National Convention by the National Economic Commission, met in the suite of Mr. Bruce Thiesen. James A. McMahan (ME), chairman; Harry Klug (OR); E.C. Toppin (NC); Firman Henricks (IL); and L.A. "Tony" Santillanes (NM) made the selections from twenty-seven (27) nominations in the category of small employers (200 or fewer employees) and nineteen (19) in the category of large employers (over 200 employees) which had been received from twenty-eight (28) departments. The recommendations of this special committee were unanimously approved by the Commission during the business session on March 2, 1988.

The following companies will receive special National Awards at the 1988 National Convention:

Large Employer (more than 200 employees) Twitchell, Dothan, Alabama

Small Employer (200 or fewer employees) Stran Buildings, La Grange, Georgia.

The selection committee also selected a runner-up company in each category in case neither of the companies selected were able to accept the award or to attend the National Convention. Both of the winning companies have accepted. The company official attending the Convention to accept the award will be given a small stipend to defray expenses.

Several nominations that had been received were ineligible for the National Awards because they did not meet the four criteria listed on the nomination form. Departments submitting these nominations were sent a plaque for presentation to the employer. The companies named above will also receive the same plaque for departmental presentation. The departments submitting nominations were: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Savings Bonds Program

The Economic Commission continues its active and traditional support of U.S. Savings Bonds, which have recently gained a new popularity because of a guaranteed minimum return for those who hold the bonds for five years or longer.

Because of Federal budget cuts, the U.S. Treasury's Savings Bonds Division can no longer provide funds for individual, annual mailings to Legion posts, but through memoranda to department officials, articles in the Commission's newsletter, in the ADVANCE, and by the use of public service advertisements in The American Legion Magazine, the Commission continues to inform Legionnaires of the value of these bonds.

Small Business Administration

During the first half of FY 1988, one-half of all Small Business Administration's direct loans were made to veterans. This translates into 151 loans for a total of $11 million. During the same period, 17% of the loans guaranteed by SBA were made to veterans, who received 1,296 loans totaling $254.3 million. For Vietnam-era veterans, this emphasis amounted to on increase of $2.2 million in direct loans and an increase of $5.3 million in guaranteed loans over the some period last year. The average size SBA loan during the first six months of this fiscal year was $200,000 for guaranty loans, and $68,000 for direct loans. Loans to Vietnam-era veterans averaged $71,000 for direct loans and $196,000 for guaranty loans.

Minority veterans received 13% of the SBA direct loan dollars that went for veteran loans. This means that minority veterans received approximately 19 direct veteran loans for a total of $1.4 million. The SBA estimates that minorities received 11 percent of all the loans made or guaranteed by them, or approximately 861 loans totaling $169 million.

Women veterans received 73 loans totaling $14.4 million during the first half of FY 1988.

This year, SBA has approved 62 Handicapped Assistance Loans (HAL) for a total of $8.5 million. Four of those loans, totaling about $200,000 went to minorities. 14 HAL loans totaling $1.5 million went to veterans.

Veteran owned firms that qualified for SBA's 8(a) Program received 6698(o) contracts for a total of $433.4 million, which represents one-quarter of the dollars awarded in that program.

Many small business contractors are hindered from obtaining work because of the unavailability of bonding. This year, SBA has assisted 344 Vietnam-era veteran owned firms to obtain contracts totaling $35 million. Altogether, SBA was responsible for guaranteeing bonding that resulted in 1,359 veteran owned firms receiving contracts totaling $155 million.

VA Home Loan Program

The Commission worked earlier this year with the Congress in the development of P.L. 100–198 to effect changes in the VA Home loan program which would provide for financial counseling for veterans experiencing difficulty in meeting mortgage payments, with a view toward preventing foreclosures. The legislation also addressed the issue of assumption of VA loans, which has been a major concern of the Legion. Under prior law, a VA mortgage could be assumed without requiring a credit check of the new buyer. While the assumability of VA loans is of great advantage to the veteran, particularly during times of high interest rates, the veteran remained liable and resulting credit check was obtained. P.L. 100–198 now requires such determination of credit worthiness on the part of the buyer, and provides for an automatic release of liability for the veterans. the legislation also changed the guaranty formula, to allow for greater use of the benefit by veterans living in areas with high housing costs.

One of the most urgent concerns of the National Economic Commission has been the failing fiscal health of the VA's Home Loan Guaranty program. Over the past decade economic conditions, including inflation, rising interest rates, and national, as well as regional recessions, have forced the VA to absorb increasing program costs owing to high rates of default and foreclosure. Moreover, income from the VA's Direct Loan Portfolio, which helped supplement the VA's available income to pay off foreclosures, has been largely depleted owing to the sale of the portfolio to the private sector at heavily discounted prices. Proceeds from these sales were used to help offset growing Federal budget deficits. The Commission has been working with Congress to seek new supplemental income for the program.

Administrative and Legislative Appearances

The Economics staff conducts the activities and programs of the Economic Commission and its two Committees, Employment and Veterans Preference, on a daily basis. The staff carries out all paper work relative to the three National Employer Awards program, as well as for the Citation of Appreciation program. In addition to providing information and assistance to those who write to the Legion on matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission, or directly to the Commission, the staff interviews and counsels individuals by telephone and personal visit. Besides requests from individuals, the staff receives and answers frequent requests from government agencies, members of Congress, Congressional committees, private organizations, and other groups on proposals that would affect the economic interests of veterans. The Commission welcomes all letters of comment or suggestions on Economic activities.

Within the limits of prior commitments, the Economics staff accepts all possible requests and invitations for participation in Department and National functions and non-Legion activities that relate to the Economic program.

The Director, Assistant Director, and Division secretary attended the 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The Director and Assistant Director attended the Fall 1987 meeting of the National Executive Committee, as well as the NEC's Spring 1988 meeting and the Commanders and Adjutants meeting held in conjunction with it.

The Director serves on the Executive Committee and the Committee on Disabled Veterans of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped; as a member of the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans Employment; has served during the report year on the Veterans Committee of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies; and the Legion's Planning and Coordinating

Committee. As part of these responsibilities, he attended various meetings in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere.

As part of the Commission's promotion of full employment of the handicapped, especially disabled veterans, flags that had been flown over the United States Capitol were presented to those being honored as Outstanding Handicapped Federal employees on October 1987. Flags were also presented to outstanding handicapped employees of the U.S. Postal Service in May 1988. Disabled veterans were among those honored to each occasion.

The Economic Commission staff regularly reviews Legion publications covering economic matters, and updates those, such as The American Legion Extension Program Study Course, as necessary. The staff is always ready to furnish material to the departments on economic matters for use to various meetings, to answer questions, and to furnish any necessary information.

In addition to making periodic reports to the National Executive Committee and the National Commander, the Economic Division maintains a close relationship with the Public Relations Division to ensure that the American Legion News Service (ALNS) ADVANCE, the National Adjutant's Newsletter, and other American Legion publications will have all available, timely information. Liaison is also maintained with The American Legion Magazine to keep the staff abreast of all developments in economic programs. The Commission's bi-monthly newsletter, The Veterans Economic Guardian, has a mailing list of 6,000 which is provided to subscribers free of charge. The Guardian. which regularly promotes the values of American Legion membership to any of its readers who may not be members, has been enthusiastically received by readers, especially those Local Veterans Employment Representatives and staff of the Disabled Veterans Outreach program who are actively engaged in serving veterans in the State Job Service offices.

Other publications of the Commission, such as The American Legion Manual for Employment Chairman are being revised. The Manual will be republished in a more convenient, concise, and up-to-date version to help department and post employment chairmen promote full employment for all veterans. In the past year there has been increased correspondence from newly appointed past employment chairmen asking for information on their duties and sources for more information. This may be partly attributable to regularly scheduled articles in the ADVANCE, going to post officials, on Economic programs. A revised brochure on Federal programs available to help veterans, such as the Veterans Job Training Act, is currently being prepared. The brochure on the Economic Commission and its programs is also excellent for Legion meetings, booths to community events, etc. the brochure and nomination forms on the Employer Awards program has been revised.

The Commission also provides Citations of Appreciation to individuals and programs who have mode significant contributions to the economic betterment of veterans. The only procedure necessary is a brief explanation, submitted to the Commission through the department adjutant, of what the nominee has done to promote the mandates and ideals of the Commission.

A very important part of the work of the Economic staff is preparing testimony, in liaison with the Legislative division, for presentation before Congressional committees. Information about various statements before Congress on Economic mandates will be found under the section of this report on resolutions.

The Economic Commission actively participates in the Legislative Rally held during the Washington Conference each year, usually in February, with the Chairman addressing the Legionnaires before they visit their Congressmen. The Commission is also actively engaged in the testimony of the National Commander before the two Committees on Veterans Affairs of the House and Senate in late September.

Conclusion

The Commission and its affiliated Committees are fully aware that it would be impossible to carry out the mandates of the Commission without the contributions of posts, districts, counties and departments, as well as of individual Legionnaires, and is deeply appreciative. Letters of inquiry and reports of activities in the field are always welcome.

The Economic Commission and its Committees express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the splendid spirit of cooperation found in the National Commander, the National Adjutant and the staffs of the Washington and Indianapolis offices.

The respective reports of the two Committees assigned to the Economic Commission for supervision and coordination follow:

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

JAMES J. MCMAHON, Maine, *Chairman*

Members of the Employment Committee met with the Economic Commission twice during the report year. One occasion was during the Annual Convention, August 22, 1987, in San Antonio, Texas, before the Legion's 69th Annual National Convention. The second joint meeting was in conjunction with the 30th Annual Washington Conference, February 29–March 1, 1988. At each of these meetings employment panels were held which included representatives from the various government agencies and other organizations with which the Employment Committee cooperates. The Committee Chairman and several members also met with the subcommittee of the Economic Commission in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 1987 and May 1988.

To carry out its foremost responsibility of enhancing employment and job training opportunities for all veterans, the Committee seeks satisfaction of Legion resolutions approved to the National Convention and by the National Executive Committee for this purpose. The Economic Division staff carries out the administrative functions and day-to-day workload of the committee. The staff works closely with the Legislative Division in implementing those resolutions requiring action by Congress.

Jobs for Veterans

The Employment Committee recognizes under the "Jobs for Veterans" title those activities carried out across the Nation by individuals and groups, particularly through Legion posts, to help veterans find jobs, especially in the private sector. This takes the form of, among other things, the appointment of post employment chairmen; nomination of companies to be honored in the three Legion Employer Awards programs (for older workers, the handicapped, and veterans); sponsoring of Job Fairs or Opportunity Days to bring together veterans and employers and others able to help veterans find work, training, or to take advantage of other economic benefits.

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Employment Committee utilizes Legion publications as well as those of the Economic Commission, such as The Veterans Economic Guardian, to bring information to these Legionnaires who are doing so much in their communities to help other veterans find work.

The American Legion Magazine, the American Legion News Service and the Public Relations Divisions, have been very cooperative in publicizing the work of the Employment Committee, which is very appreciated. The Committee would also like to recognize the various departments, districts, and posts for publicizing and promoting the activities covered under the "Jobs for Veterans" program.

Although unemployment among veterans has declined along with the number of unemployed persons in general, there are still disturbing indications of joblessness among significant segments of our veteran population. For example, although veterans constitute 13–14% of the veterans' labor force, they represent 26% of all dislocated workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Minority veterans' unemployment continues to be resistant to the general improvement in joblessness nationwide. Finally, there continues to be evidence that disabled veterans are not only experiencing high rates of unemployment as a group, but that many such veterans are not even counted as unemployed, having dropped out of the labor force out of discouragement in their search for work.

Award Program for Hiring the Handicapped.—During calendar year 1987, the following eighteen (18) departments submitted nominations for employers of the handicapped: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Texas.

Award Program for Hiring the Older Worker.—During calendar year 1987, the following twenty (20) departments submitted nominations for employers of older workers: Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Department of Labor Programs

During the post year, The National Economic Commission has focused on major reform legislation affecting the Federal government's veterans employment programs, primarily those administered by the Department of Labor. These efforts culminated in the passage of P.L. 100-323, which was signed by the President on May 20, 1988. Eight of the Commission's twenty-two resolutions were satisfied in whole or in part by the new law, which substantially revises chapter 41 of title 18, United States Code.

Veterans employment programs, which are chiefly operated or funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, have suffered for many years from lack of accountability, unstable budgets, and inattention to the job skills training needs of veterans. The new law represents a comprehensive attempt to attend to many of the problems which have hampered the efforts of the employment and training system over the years to provide quality service to unemployed and underemployed veterans. The new legislation accomplishes this goal in several ways.

First, P.L. 100-323 addresses the instability and erosion of funding for Local Veterans Employment Representatives who ore stationed in the nation's State Employment Service Offices throughout the nation. In 1980, there were approximately 2000 such LVERs; in 1988, there were only 1252. Under the new law, a statutory level of 1600 positions has been established, thereby halting further reductions in this vital program. Performance standards and new accountability procedures are also included.

Second, the law established by statute the National Veterans Training Institute (NVTI) which will improve the skills of workers in the veterans employment and training system. The Institute was established administratively two years ago by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, and has enjoyed considerable success in training over 1200 veteran-dedicated personnel in the Employment Service.

Third, P.L. 100-323 for the first time provides authority for effective monitoring of the use of veterans preference by Federal agencies. Federal personnel practices have become increasingly decentralized over the past decade, and there has previously been no effective means of assuring that such agencies were adhering to the veterans preference requirements of the law. The new monitoring function has been assigned to the Department of Labor's Directors for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) in each state. DVETs will also have the authority, for the first time, to monitor activities under the decentralized Job Training Partnership Act.

Finally, the new legislation will reauthorize the Veterans Job Training Act (VJTA) through the end of 1989, to a funding level of $60million per year. This is the first multiyear reauthorization since the program's inception in 1983. Included in the reauthorization are extensive counseling provisions designed to assist veteran participants in selecting and adjusting to their training programs.

The passage of P.L. 100-323 represents the completion of the first of a two phase initiative by the National Economic Commission to reform the nation's veterans employment and training system. The Commission has already begun to work for affirmative action in the hiring and advancement of disabled and Vietnam era veterans, the employment of veterans in the Federal workforce, and reemployment rights.

Earlier this year, the Commission participated in the planning and operation of a National Forum on Workforce 2000 and America's veterans, sponsored by the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans Employment, of which the Legion is a member. Workforce 2000 is the name of a study conducted by the Labor Department, which disclosed major changes in the nature of jobs and the workforce which will take place between now and the end of the century. The Forum examined the role of veterans in the labor force over the next twelve years and developed recommendations for legislative and administrative change. The final findings of the Forum are scheduled to be released in late summer of 1988.

VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

HENRY J. FIELD, South Carolina, *Chairman*

The Veterans Preference Committee met with the Economic Commission and the Employment Committee on two occasions during the report year; prior to the convening of the 69th Annual National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and on February 29-March 1, 1988 during the 30th Annual Washington Conference.

Federal Employment

The Office of Personnel Management has been helpful in responding to questions on individual cases, and in notifying agencies of their obligation to observe veterans preference, including in temporary appointments, and to use the noncompetitive appointments programs for veterans, such as the Veterans Readjustment Appointments authority and that for veterans with 30 percent or more service-connected disability.

Flags for Handicapped Employees.—Flags that had been flown over the United States Capitol were again presented, in the name of the National Commander, to Federal employees and of the U.S. Postal Service who were being honored as outstanding handicapped employees. As usual, several of those being honored in each group were war veterans.

U.S. Postal Service

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 provided that veterans preference was to be applied to all job applicants and employees of the U.S. Postal Service in the some way as in the competitive service (the Civil Service Commission had jurisdiction over the competitive service in 1970, as the Office of Personnel Management does now). Recently, however, Ms. Constance Horner, Director, Office of Personnel Management, has written that the OPM has no enforcement jurisdiction over the Postal Service and its personnel procedures. The Veterans Preference Committee will continue to work with OPM and Congress to correct this.

FINANCE COMMISSION

GEORGE W. BOUCEK, Illinois, *Chairman*

WEBBER LAGRANGE, Indiana, *National Treasurer*

PAUL M. ALLEN, Minnesota, *Director*

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee, the handling of funds under that budget, and the exercise of reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and departments of the National Organization operate within the approved appropriations. The Finance Commission is composed of seven members, with the National Adjutant as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer are ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the Executive Directors of our Washington and Indianapolis offices and the Finance Director, as well as liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The National Organization had an operating surplus of $349,813 for the year 1987. In 1987, we received $5.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: $2.75 to the General Fund; $2.50 to The American Legion Magazine; and $.25 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The income of the National Organization is derived from annual membership dues, interest on investments, Magazine advertisements, Emblem sales, contributions, and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the auditor's report, and in addition, your attention is directed to the Reports of Committees and Trusts which come under the jurisdiction of this commission, which reports can be found elsewhere in this program.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.
American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee.
American Legion Emblem Committee.
American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust.

EMBLEM COMMITTEE

FRANK JOHNSTON, Illinois, *Chairman*

ALFRED L. LANKENAU, Indiana, *General Manager*

Meetings

The Emblem Committee has met twice since our last report. The meeting of the Committee in August, 1987, in San Antonio, Texas, was to consider bids, award contracts for 1988 requirements and to carefully study operating policy. The second meeting, in May of 1988, studied general operations and promotional plans.

Catalog

The 1988 National Emblem catalog combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion merchandise in sixty-four (64) pages. The catalog, with order blanks bound into the book, was shipped using a preprinted indication the back cover and a simple mailing strip. The catalog was mailed to all Departments, Posts and Units (approximately 65,000 copies) as soon as it was received from the printer.

An additional quantity of approximately 30,000 was distributed to individual members in response to their requests and at department conventions where we have had Emblem Sales displays.

Advertising

in The American Legion Magazine during this past year has been centered on one-page four-color ads featuring jackets. We feel these ads to be successful and intend to continue this type of promotion. In addition, we cooperated with the U.S. Historical Society in an ad promoting a patriotic stained glass piece. Results from this venture did not meet expectations. We will not continue this type of promotion.

A circular promoting quantity purchases of flags for Memorial Day was mailed to all Post Commanders and Adjutants. Returns from this inexpensive vehicle warrant continuation of this type of promotion. Future mailings are scheduled.

A test mailing will be done just after the convention promoting Fall items to customers and Legionnaire non-customers. This will be the first utilization of the computer mailing list capability now available to us.

The Emblem committee continues to regularly review the advertising program.

Department Convention Exhibit and Display

The exhibit and display of official emblem merchandise at 14 department conventions was conducted during the year of 1987. These exhibits were at the invitation of department officials for the purpose of good-will and service to the individual Legionnaires. We have exhibited at 17 conventions in 1988 also by invitation.

Each purchaser benefits by the division's economical direct sales program and quantity purchasing power. The net profit derived from sales is paid into the general fund, which is expended under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission to promote the aims and programs of the organization, thereby further benefiting the individual member.

Sales Data

The gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire year of 1987 and for the first six months of 1988, for the Emblem Sales Division are as follows:

January 1, 1987—December 31, 1987 (Twelve Months)

Gross sales	$5,422,115
Cost of goods sold	3,146,145
Overhead	1,526,351
Operating profit including discounts taken	749,619

The number of individual orders processed during the twelve month period was 59,320.

January 1, 1988—June 30, 1988

Gross sales	$3,318,137
Cost of goods sold	2,009,096
Overhead	715,927
Operating profit including discounts taken	593,114

THE AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMMITTEE

JEROME P. DOBEL, JR., Missouri, *Chairman*

G. PAUL DUNN, Oklahoma, *Assistant Director Membership Services*

The American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee provides oversight for the three Life insurance plans currently offered by the American Legion and as assigned to the National Finance Commission.

The original plan, ALLIP (American Legion Life Insurance Plan) is now in its 30th year of service to Legionnaires. The plan was officially approved by the National Executive Committee in February 1958 and has provided more than $64,000,000 in benefits to beneficiaries of Legionnaires. ALLIP, is a level premium, annually renewable decreasing term policy with benefits based upon the age of the insured at time of death. All Legionnaires underage 70 are eligible to apply under liberal underwriting requirements.

The Committee has periodically sought approval from the National Executive Committee to increase the maximum number of units for which members could apply under ALLIP. The most recent action was taken effective January 1, 1987, when maximum number of available units was increased from twelve (12) to fourteen (14). Legionnaires who were eligible for a maximum of $144,000 protection before, can now apply for coverage up to $161,000 in the American Legion Life Insurance Plan.

The National Executive Committee passed a resolution to grant a 15 percent "across the board increase" an all death benefits for the calendar year 1988. This as the 19th time in the 30 year history an which such an increase has been made. Example: The $140,000 policy becomes $161,000 and a$10,000 benefit as worth at 1,500. The cost per unit has never increased. It remains only $24.00 per year.

The Plan is underwritten by Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The coverage is arranged under a group policy for members in all states except permanent residents of Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin, who are insured under individual policies. The United States Life Insurance Company in the City of New York insures permanent residents of New York State and Puerto Rico.

The American Legion Life Insurance Trust supports several National programs which are among the most prominent and visible activities of the American Legion. The programs are listed below with the corresponding funding for 1988.

American Legion Baseball	$461,362
National Oratorical Contest	$199,300

This includes the awards for the Oratorical Contests as follows:

1st Place	$16,000
2nd Place	$14,000
3rd Place	$10,000
4th Place	$8,000

In addition, each of the Department winners attending the regional contests receives a $1,000 scholarship award.

Junior Uniformed Musical Groups	$20,000

For participation at the National Convention.

Boy's Nation	$117,188
Boy Scout of the Year Scholarship Award	$14,000

An award of $2,000 per year up to four years, not to exceed $8,000, for pursuit of a course of study beyond high school. Three second prize awards in the amount of $2,000 each are granted also.

Department Service Officer Training Program	$68.000

These requests for grants are approved by The American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee, the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee

Each year, on or about October 15, all insured Legionnaires are requested to report their next year's membership card number when renewing their coverage for the next calendar year. For further information, write to the American Legion Life Insurance Plan, Rollins Burdick Hunter Co., 123 North Wacker Drive, 17th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606, or call 1-800-542-5547.

Claims

The primary feature of The American Legion Life insurance plan is the benefits paid to beneficiaries of deceased insured Legionnaires. In 30 years, claims have been paid amounting to more than $64,000,000 in benefits. These benefits were paid at no cost to the National Organization of The American Legion and no expenses to the general membership, other than certificate-policyholders. It can be properly reported that the insurance plan has proven to be a self-sustaining program. There is little doubt that by the end of 1988, the total benefits paid will be well over sixty-five million dollars.

Claims Report January 1,1987

1958	$78,790.00
1959	159,410.00
1960	221,545.00
1961	257,970.00
1962	393,020.00
1963	561,574.00
1964	672,250.00
1965	730,910.00
1966	976,474.00
1967	1,230,968.00
1968	1,376,243.00
1969	1,489,100.00
1970	1,672,521.00
1971	1,955,909.00
1972	1,839,294.00
1973	1,917,345.00
1974	2,151,480.00

1975	2,096,983.00
1976	2,598,185.00
1977	2,662,192.00
1978	3,215,425.00
1979	2,898,141.00
1980	3,263,408.00
1981	3,855,550.00
1982	4,089,606.00
1983	4,467,599 00
1984	4,201,825.00
1985	3,983,438 00
1986	4,125,003.00
1987	4,320,547 00
Total	*63,462,706.00

*It does not include claims paid thus for far 1988

Premium Growth

The premium growth is even more remarkable. Premiums or contributions paid for life insurance protection exceeded well over $4,000,000 for calendar years 1977, 1978, 1979, 1979 and over $5,000,000 for 1980 and 1981. In each of the post five years the total premium has exceeded $6,000,000.

Premium Growth 1958-1987

1958	342,000.00
1959	390,000.00
1960	414,000.00
1961	450,000.00
1962	840,000.00
1963	1,178,000.00
1964	1,300,000.00
1965	1,412,305.00
1966	1,652,883.00
1967	1,829,728.00
1968	2,016,073.00
1969	2,066,583.00
1970	2,174,070.00
1971	2,699,473.00
1972	2,919,409.00
1973	3,216,594.00
1974	3,415,618.00
1975	3,539,989.00
1976	3,882,104.00
1977	4,367,713.00
1978	4,641,752.00
1979	4,854,524.00
1980	5,459,932.00
1981	5,834,993.00
1982	6,066,474.00
1983	6,413,891.00
1984	6,559,513.00
1985	6,698,701.00
1986	6,770,130.00
1987	6,868,617.00

New Plans

The two new life insurance plans, approved by The American Legion in October 1986, are also doing well. The plans have been developed to expand the options available to Legionnaires and spouses an providing for their insurance needs.

(ALL VET)

American Legion Life—Very Exceptional Term—is a custom-designed policy with level benefits and level premiums. The premium is the same for all who enroll; however, the benefit depends on your age at the time you enroll. Acceptance is subject to the underwriters approval and is available all year to younger Legionnaires and their spouses. The plan offers up to 4 units of coverage and includes an important Return of Premium Feature.

(ALL GI)

American Legion Life—Guaranteed Issue—is a custom-designed whole life policy with cash and loan values. This plan also offers level premiums and level benefits. The plan is available to more mature Legionnaires and their spouses during limited enrollments and is issued on a standard or modified basis, depending on answers to health questions on the application. You cannot be turned down for this plan. A child rider is also available with both plans.

For more information on ALL VET and ALL GI, call 1-800-523-5758 or write Union Fidelity Life Insurance Co., Union Fidelity Office Square, Trevose, PA 19049.

The Life Insurance and Trust Committee on behalf of the National Organization is proud to make these two new dynamic insurance plans available to our fellow members.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

WILLIAM M. DETWEILER, Louisiana, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

The following annual report covers the activities of the Foreign Relations Commission and Council of The American Legion for the 1987-1988 program year ending June 30, 1988.

Overview

The American Legion seeks the development of a consistent, viable U.S. foreign policy based upon worldwide U.S. political, economic, and security interests.

By Resolution 33, The American Legion supports a foreign policy to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy and resisting Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism. Such foreign policy should be based on the following principles:

> Implementation of a strong bipartisan foreign policy, reflecting America's responsibilities as leader of the Free World and true to our heritage and traditions. Dedication to achievement of world peace with freedom, secured by a peace through strength posture.
>
> *Active Promotion of Democracy.*—Realization that the Soviet Union seeks world domination and is conducting an "undeclared war" against the Free World, using a variety of means ranging from propaganda to armed aggression.

Provision and maintenance of economic, military, and humanitarian assistance to friendly nations to promote U.S. interests. Support for strategically important resistance movement struggling against totalitarianism.

> Negotiation of equitable, verifiable arms control agreements which improves U.S. national security by increasing the stability of nuclear deterrent forces. Determined opposition to international terrorism and drug trafficking, which challenge the civilized world. Support for responsible international organizations, which are consistent with U.S. sovereignty and serve U.S. national interests.
>
> Participation in an increasingly interdependent Free World trading system based on fair and equitable trading practices.

Recognition that the world operates on a national basis; consequently, U.S. sovereignty must not be abridged unless required by important U.S. national security interests. Recognition that the President must be the Chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while the Congress performs important functions of advice and oversight.

We urge the United States to intensify its commitment as leader of the Free World. If we falter or grow weary, there is no center of power capable of sustaining Western ideals and institutions. To ensure a peaceful and stable future, we must reestablish the bipartisan consensus on foreign policy that served America so well in the period from World War II to the mid-1960's. We believe our members and most Americans are ready to recapture the spirit of unity and commitment which alone can see us through.

General Foreign Policy

This section and the following five sections summarize foreign relations resolutions in effect during the program year.

Resolution 10.—"Protection of U.S. Rights in International Waters." The U.S. Government should exercise U.S. rights to unhindered navigation in international waters whenever necessary to protect U.S. national interests and U.S. international commercial interests as a great maritime and trading nation. Further, that in conducting such operations, the U.S. Government should use an adequate and effective force fully capable of self-defense, obtain allied cooperation as appropriate, take retaliatory action against foreign interference, and treat any members of the armed forces killed or injured in such duty (and their survivors) with the utmost honor, support, and compassion. (NEC—Fall 987).

Resolution 18.—"Representatives of Foreign Governments." We express our concern about the major role of former senior Government officials of former Members of Congress serving as foreign representatives and oppose such undue influence and urge appropriate action to control such practices, including post-employment restrictions, prohibitions on use of non-public information concerning U.S. Government negotiating positions, restrictions on floor privileges, and stronger reporting requirements. (NEC—Spring 1987).

Resolution 33.—"United States Foreign Policy." Presented on page 311.

Resolution 157.—"Steel Purchases by Army and Navy." Urges that the Army and Navy purchase only U.S.-produced steel. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 404.—"Urging Congress to Establish a Single CIA Oversight Committee." Urges establishment of a single CIA oversight committee of a manageable size to reduce the chances of this critical agency being compromised and calls for prosecution of congressional staff members for divulging classified information concerning the CIA. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 417.—"Foreign Aid." Urges the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. National Security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military security. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 418.—"Aiding Freedom Fighters." Supports the provision of adequate U.S. training, military equipment, and humanitarian aid to foreign national freedom fighters who: (1) Seem capable of replacing or moderating an imposed Marxist-Leninist regime; (2) Pursue policies consistent with U.S. national interests; (3) Are operating in a country having significant importance to U.S. national interests. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 481.—"Successor Generation." Urges public and private organizations in all member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to take coordinated actions, particularly in the field of education, to assure that leaders, teachers, and citizens of their countries are given the opportunity to understand the concepts of western political and economic freedoms. (65th National Convention).

Resolution 526.—"Bipartisan Foreign Policy." Urges the President and the Congress to reestablish a long-term, comprehensive bipartisan consensus on foreign policy goals and methods of operations and to restore the primacy of the President to his rightful constitutional powers as chief architect of foreign policy. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 527.—"National Endowment for Democracy." Fully supports the National Endowment for Democracy and urges Congress to provide full funding for its activities. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 528.—"United Nations." Urges the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient U.N. operations consistent with the U.N. Charter's stated purposes. Additionally, urges the Administration to continue to take necessary actions to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations. Also, mandates the Foreign Relations Commission to continue its study and evolution of U.S. participation in the United Nations and report periodically. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 529.—"Nuclear Proliferation." Urges the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt Nuclear proliferation and States that we will inform our membership and the American people about this crucial topic. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 530.—"Law of the Sea Treaty." Urges the Administration and Congress to take effective steps ensuring that the United States can enjoy all rights, benefits, and responsibilities stemming from all the provisions of the Law of the Sea Treaty except those relating to deep seabed mining. Further urges the Administration and Congress to devise unilateral or multilateral arrangements providing for U.S. companies to participate in deep sea bed mining under conditions of free enterprise and outside the control of the regime specified in the Law of the Sea Treaty. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 531.—"The Information War." The U.S. Government should have a large and effective international information program to provide other Nations objective news and information about the blessings of Democracy and accurate reporting of communism's suppression of freedom and international aggression. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 532.—"Presidential Initiatives to Protect U.S. National interests." Supports prompt military action by the President to protect U.S. National interests and recommends that the President expeditiously report such activity to the Congress and the American people. (68th National Convention).

African Affairs

Resolution 198.—"Mozambique." Urges the U.S. Government to cease and desist in its efforts to approach the Government of Mozambique and, instead, concentrate on encouragement of the National Resistance of Mozambique (RENAMO). (69th National Convention).

Resolution 17.—"South Africa." Urges the U.S. Government to adopt a policy toward South Africa of supporting moderates who seek equality and representative democracy and further urges the United States to respect the sovereignty of the Government of South Africa by recognizing that the problem of South Africa in dismantling apartheid is primarily one that must be solved by the South Africans themselves. (NEC—Spring 1987).

Resolution 308.—"Angola." The United States should strongly support the UNITA movement with military weapons and other means. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 311.—"Namibia." Supports an agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to the governments of the United States and the Republic of South Africa that provides for free and fair elections, withdrawal of South African forces, independence for Namibia, and withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. (68th National Convention).

European Affairs

Resolution 1.—"Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty." Supports ratification of the INF Treaty, while urging the Executive and Legislative Branches to develop a coordinated bipartisan National security policy to ensure continued deterrence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact in the nuclear, chemical, and conventional fields in cooperation with our NATO allies. (NEC—Spring 1988).

Resolution 2.—"Strategic Nuclear Arms Control." Supports a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), including a 50 percent reduction to equal levels in strategic offensive arms, provided the treaty is equal, verifiable, and enhances the security of the United States and its allies. Further, urges that the Strategic Defense Initiative not be traded as a bargaining chip and encourages adequate steps to maintain credible deterrence and war-fighting capability across the entire spectrum of conflict—nuclear, convention, and chemical. (NEC—Spring 1988).

Resolution 50.—"Poland." Supports Democracy for Poland' citizens and opposes colonial exploitation by the Soviet Union of Poland. (67th National Convention).

Resolution 66.—"Testing of Anti-Ballistic Missile Components." Affirms that testing of anti-ballistic missile components does not violate the terms of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 104.—"Turkey." Supports aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and urges that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 105.—"North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)." Urges the American people and the U.S. Government to enhance U.S. National security by improving U.S. conventional forces committed to NATO, thereby raising the nuclear threshold. Further, urges the U.S. Government to convince other members of NATO to improve their conventional forces and to contribute directly or indirectly to military efforts in other regions, e.g., the Persian Gulf, which benefit Western Europe. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 107.—"Soviet Imperialism." Urges the American people to continue resisting Soviet imperialism, always keeping in mind the long record human misery it has caused. Additionally, the U.S. Government must continue its leadership of the Free World in the struggle to protect and promote freedom and democracy. Further, The American Legion must continue to educate and to inform the American people of the Soviet threat and of the need to resist that threat whenever and wherever it may appear. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 110.—"Strategic Nuclear Policy." Supports: (1) A United States Nuclear deterrent Force TRIAD at least equivalent to Soviet Nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict Resolution. (2) Continuation of United States underground Nuclear testing as necessary to modernize Nuclear offensive and defense forces and to ensure the reliability of existing Nuclear weapons. (3) Continued deployment of United States intermediate range missiles to NATO Europe to offset the Soviet SS-20 threat, unless on equitable, verifiable agreement limiting such forces is agreed upon by the United States and the Soviet Union. (4) Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of Nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and United States to equal levels, resulting in stable mutual deterrence at lower levels of armaments and with a lessened likelihood of nuclear war. (5) A verifiable freeze of equal Soviet and United States Nuclear forces only after the above conditions have been achieved. (6) Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any Nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond National technical means to include fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides. (7) The bipartisan report of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces (Scowcroft Commission) which developed a comprehensive, long-term program of Nuclear modernization and arms control calling for maintenance of a modernized TRIAD; deployment of the MX missile; development of a "Minuteman" flexibly based, single warhead missile; and shifting to arms control of warheads instead of missile launchers. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 193.—"Military Sales to Japan and Norway." Calls upon the Administration and Congress to take immediate steps to prevent certain response and Norwegian companies (which sold sensitive technology to the Soviet Union) and their governments from being rewarded for their actions. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 365.—"Halting the Technology Flow to the Soviet Bloc." Urges that the Defense, Commerce, and State Departments jointly develop a coordinated program to stop the illegal flow of technology to any foreign country. Further urges that as a minimum, the program must include:

1. The reclassification of important technology secrets so as to prevent open disclosure of information vital to our National security;
2. More stringent export licensing controls and mandatory tracing of all sensitive technology equipment to ensure it reaches the proper destination.

Further urges that the Commerce Department strengthen enforcement of their regulations by requiring the presentation of Shippers Export Declarations to Customs prior to loading the cargo for export from the United States of America and that we petition Congress to fund and adequately staff the U.S. Customs Service, which has the task of enforcing the export and examining commodities and technical data intended for export from the United States of America. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 416.—"Oppose Transfer of Certain Islands to the Soviet Union." Vigorously opposes the transfer of any of the following islands (Wrangell, Bennett, Henriet to, Jeannette, Harold) to the Soviet Union as part of an arms agreement or any other treaty or accord. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 447.—"Canada." Urges the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward Canada which will provide for free trade, continued military cooperation, and cooperation in all endeavors which benefit both Nations. (69th National Convention).

Far Eastern Affairs

Resolution 3.—"The Philippines Armed Forces." Urges the United States Government to adopt a long-term policy supporting the armed forces of the Philippines in material and training so they con adequately counter the well-organized and well-supported communist insurgency forces. (NEC—Spring 1988).

Resolution 37.—"Mainland China." Urges the United States Government to refrain from supplying advanced military equipment to the Chinese Communist armed forces, which could ultimately be used against America's for hostilities and friends. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 38.—"Republic of China (Taiwan)." Urges the United States Government to establish and maintain contingency plans for American use of aid and naval bases on Taiwan and to establish full diplomatic and military Relations with the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 39.—"Military Soles to the Republic of China (Taiwan)." Fully supports the security provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act and urges the United States Government to sell advanced military equipment to the Republic of China in order to improve that nation's defense capabilities and improve the U.S. balance of payments deficit. (69th National Convention) Resolution 40 "United States Support for the Republic of Korea." Strongly supports the United States increasing its military and economic aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea by providing modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology to safeguard her freedom, sustain her development and promote the course of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Asian regions. Further urges the United States to provide a strong, flexible military force in the Republic of Korea to vigorously respond to any military and/or political aggression by North Korea. Further urges the United States to bring pressure to bear on Communist North Korea to give up the construction of the Kun Kong Dome. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 106.—"Oppose United States Giving Diplomatic Recognition to Vietnam as a Means of Obtaining information Concerning our POW/MIAs." Opposes any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning our POW/MIAs. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 178.—"POW/MIA." Provides for a special Committee on POW/MIAs. Further provides that the Special Committee report to the National Commander periodically. (62nd National Convention)

Resolution 199.—"POW/MIA." Supports the President's continued high priority to resolve the status of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Indochina and the U.S. Government policy that the fullest possible accounting con only be achieved through government-to-government cooperation. Rejects any attempt by the Government of Vietnam to link resolution of the issue to political matters which divide our countries and calls upon it to honor its pledges to cooperate fully and to exert every effort to resolving the primary bilateral obstacle to improved Relations between our two peoples. Urges the U.S. Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest National priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any American who may still be prisoner in Indochina, the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 221.—"Encouraging Democracy in the Republic of Korea." Urges the United States to encourage the Republic of Korea to adopt some equitable form of democracy as the best method of maintaining a strong and prosperous nation with the Korean people fully supporting its political-economic system. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 223.—"Philippines." Urges the Government to adopt on aggressive policy supporting the armed forces of the Philippines in material and training in order that they can adequately counter the well-organized and well-supported Communist insurgency forces. Further urges that funds adequate for this purpose be appropriated. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 288.—"Support 'Empty Chair' Program (POW/MIA)." Urges the National Commander to encourage posts, units, districts and departments to implement the Empty Chair Program at all official meetings as a continual physical symbol of The POW/MIAs and that at each chair a POW/MIA flag be displayed. (67th National Convention).

Resolution 317.—"Philippines." Urges the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward the Philippines which will permit continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, encourage the strengthening of Democracy, promote economic development and provide material aid to defeat the Communist insurgency. Further, urges the Philippine Government, in a spirit of friendship and comradeship, to pursue policies which will encourage Democracy, economic development, National security, and continued cooperation with the United States. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 355.—"Korean Conflict POW/MIAs." Recommends that the U.S. Government pursue resolution of unanswered questions concerning those POWs and missing in action as a result of the Korean Conflict; that the United States seek the cooperation of relevant Governments to help answer these questions; and, that any American remains be returned for honorable burial in the land they defended, the country they served. (68th National Convention),

Resolution 356.—"Department POW/MIA Committees." Applauds the greatly increased POW/MIA efforts by the Departments. Encourages and supports all Departments in operating POW/MIA Committees, which ploy a vital role in creating public awareness of the POW/MIA issue. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 411.—"Japan." Requests the U.S. Government to make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense and to develop equitable trading practices between Japan and the United States. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 426.—"POW/MIA Postage Stamp." The American Legion endorses and will work actively for the issuance by the U.S. Postal Service of a POW/MIA stamp bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families. (67th National Convention).

Resolution 433.—"POW/MIA Legislative Priorities." Urges legislative committees of departments, districts, and posts to include as one of their legislative priorities: "A complete accounting of our MIAs and POWs and The American Legion will not rest until such accounting is completed." (67th National Convention).

Resolution 533.—"Cambodia." Urges the U.S. Government to provide adequate military aid to the non-Communist Cambodian resistance and humanitarian aid to Cambodian refugees, without the use of U.S. military personnel. (68th National Convention).

Inter-American Affairs

Resolution 10.—"Western Hemisphere Task Force." Directs the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission to continue operating the Western Hemisphere Task Force; to submit a proposed annual task Force work plan for the following year for consideration by the National Executive Committee at each Fall Meeting; and (during the month of June prior to the Fall Meeting) to request funds in the National Security-Foreign Relations Division budget and the Foreign Relations Commission budget to implement the Task Force work plan. (NEC—May 1984).

Resolution 32.—"Western Hemisphere Task Force Report." Directs the Foreign Relations Commission to form a Western Hemisphere Task Force to gather and evaluate information on this vital area. Further, that the Task Force, through the Foreign Relations Commission, report their findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee meeting in October 1980 and such interim reports as may be available to the pre-convention meeting of the NEC in Boston, Massachusetts. Additionally, that these reported findings and recommendations be fully reported lo the entire American Legion membership through all forums and outlets, and to the American people, and that specific recommendations affecting the future of the Western Hemisphere be made to all policy makers in the Executive Branch and the Congress of the U.S. (66th National Convention)

Resolution 39.—"Panama Canal." (1) The United States and Panama should take all necessary actions to ensure Panama will be able to operate the Panama Canal efficiently after Panama assumes control on January 1, 2000. (2) The United States should take any necessary actions to ensure that the Panama Canal is operated efficiently and in a manner consistent with U.S. national security interests. (3) Construction of a new Canal or major improvements in the existing Panama Canal should be consistent with U.S. National security interests. (4) Continued U.S.—Panamanian military cooperation through the U.S. Southern Command is essential to help protect evolving democratic Nations in the area and the Panama Canal. (5) The United States should encourage democratic evolution in Panama to help provide political stability and a better, freer life for Panamanians. (6) The future of the Panama Canal and U.S. military operations in Panama is of crucial importance to U.S. National security and there are clear indications of serious problems arising which could diminish U.S. National security. (7) A Task Force should complete on in-depth study (including analytical research in Panama, if necessary) on this issue and report to the National Executive Committee at its spring 1988 meeting. (NEC Oct. 1986)

Resolution 51.—"Central America." We fully support the Jackson Plan as approved by Congress in the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1988 (P.L. 99-83) and urge the Congress to fully fund the Jackson Plan as a matter of vital National interest. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 53.—"Nicaragua." Recommends the U.S. Government: (1) Oppose the Marxist-Leninist type Government of Nicaragua being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to heaping Nicaraguans replace it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles. (2) Provide whatever legitimate means are necessary to achieve this end.(3) Seek to isolate the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua and aid the Nicaragua Freedom Fighters in their struggle against tyranny, without directly committing U.S. personnel to combat. (4) Invite the other free Nations of America to join in this effort through the Organization of American States, or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent Nation. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 279.—"Mexico." Urges the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexican-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both Nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere. Further, urges the U.S. Government to provide a greatly expanded number of scholarships to Mexicans, particularly those lacking funds to attend undergraduate and appropriate vocational-technical programs, provided said students promise to return to Mexico after completing their education. Also, urges that student exchange program between Mexico and the United States be initiated to acquaint the future leaders of both countries with their neighbors. Further, recommends that in all economic transactions with Mexico especially those dealing with procurement of petroleum products and other sources of energy) the U.S. Government should provide Mexico equal or greater consideration as compared to other Nations supplying the some products. Finally, urges the U.S. Government to seek t o develop a common approach to Central America and to encourage on awareness on the part of the Government of Mexico as to the ultimate security threat to Mexico. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 409.—"El Salvador." Urges the U.S. Government to provide economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerrillas. Further, urges, the U.S. Government to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat Communist insurgency in El Salvador. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 448.—"Aid to Friendly Central American Police Forces." Urges that the United States be authorized to provide training, equipment, and supplies to friendly Central American police forces to enable them to provide efficient and fair administration of justice and protection from terrorists. (69th National Convention)

Resolution 449.—"Central American Peace Plans." Urges the U.S.Government to support a peace plan for Central America provided that it is completely verifiable, comprehensive in scope, simultaneous in execution and achieves U.S. objectives of encouraging Democracy and defeating communism in Central America. (69th National Convention)

Resolution 451.—"Cuba." Recommends that the U.S. Government continue economic sanctions against Cuba; maintain control of Guantanamo Bay Naval Base; continue intelligence over-flights of Cuba; and take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, security assistance, or, as a lost resort, U.S. military action. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 535.—"Brazil.." Recommends that the U.S. foster, perpetuate and seek to extend a continuing harmonious Relationship with this vast and rapidly developing country as a matter of mutual economic benefit. (68th National Convention)

Resolution 536.—"Caribbean Basin." Urges the American people to: (1) make those necessary sacrifices to stop Communist expansionism in the Caribbean basin, (2) support the U.S. Government's efforts to prevent the Marxist takeover of any country in the Caribbean Basin by subversion or armed aggression and to promote free elections of governments to represent the people of those countries. Further, that the Caribbean Basin initiative be fully implemented and expanded to permit duty free access to the U.S. market for all Caribbean Basin products, for a 12-year period, thus encouraging productive activity to promote economic growth. Additionally, recommends the United States provide economic and security assistance as needed to help develop prosperous, democratic societies in the region. Also, that the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin Nations at the college level and increased support for primary education to promote literacy. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 537.—"Costa Rica." Recommends that the United States provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rico regain economic prosperity.Further recommends the United States provide any type security assistance requested by Costa Rico to defend its democratic system. (68th National Convention) Resolution 538 "Guatemala." Recommends that the U.S. Government continue trying to influence the Guatemalan Government to evolve toward a democratic orientation while providing improved political, economic, and social conditions for the people. Further, that the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 539.—"Honduras." Recommends that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperation with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 540.—"Inter-American Security." The American Legion believes the U.S. Government should adopt the following policies toward Latin America: (1) The United States has a vital National interest in helping our Latin American allies create stable, prosperous, free societies. (2) The United States must be willing to devote the necessary resources to achieve that goal. (3) Whenever it accords with U.S. interests, the United States should channel its efforts through multilateral means such as the Organization of American States and the Rio Treaty. (4) if compelling circumstances dictate otherwise, the United States must take whatever unilateral actions are required to achieve it National security objectives. (68th National Convention).

Resolution 541.—"Inter-American Relations." Recommends: The President to appoint a bipartisan Presidential commission to study the relationship of the United States and Mexico. The commission should be given the mission of estimating likely future developments in Mexico and making recommendations on long-term solutions to key problems, procedures for developing and implementing U.S. policy for

Mexico, and methods of practicing mutual understanding and cooperation. (68th National Convention).

Middle Eastern Affairs

Resolution 10.—"Trade with Iran." We believe all U.S. trade with Iran should be prohibited until such time as Iran behaves in a responsible, peaceful manner. (NEC—Fall 1987)

Resolution 30.—"Middle East." Recommends that the U.S. Government adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives: (1) A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab States. (2) Exclusion of the Soviet Union in the region. (3) A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States. (4) Restoration of full-Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon. (5 Resolution of the Iraq-Iran War without Iran being enabled to conquer or dominate other nations in the region. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 52.—"Libya." Urges the U.S. Government to combat Libyan terrorism and aggression by all means necessary. (69th National Convention).

Resolution 542.—"Afghan Freedom Fighters." Urges the United States and other Free World nations to provide adequate humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and military aid to the Afghan Freedom Fighters and to continue diplomatic efforts to bring about the removal of Soviet Forces from Afghanistan and the restoration of Afghan sovereignty. (68th National Convention)

POW/MIA Activities

The American Legion continued its dedicated efforts to help resolve the POW/MIA issue. The Special POW/MIA Committee planned and coordinated activities including:

July: The Chairman of the Special POW/MIA Committee and the staff attended the annual meeting of the National League of Families.

August: The American Legion magazine published an article by Lt. Gen. Leonard I. Perroots, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, on the DIA's role in resolving the POW/MIA issue.

September: National Commander presented resolutions to Deputy Secretary of State. Mailed convention results to chairmen.

October: National Commander presented POW/MIA resolutions to President. National Commander presented a Certificate of Excellence in Journalism Award to Daniel S. Greene for three-in-depth articles in the Arm Times on Korean War POW/MIAs. Staff attended Congressional hearing for General Vessey. Results of hearing mailed to chairmen.

November: ADVANCE published POW/MIA articles written by staff on Legion's program. Staff attended National League of Families POW/MIA Forum. Staff wrote article for Magazine opposing H.R. 2260. National Commander sent suggestions to Department Commanders on POW/MIA flag flying and use of decals.

December: National Commander and Foreign Relations Commission Chairman visited National League of Families office and received POW/MIA briefings at the Pentagon.

February: The American Legion Magazine published article opposing H.R. 2260. National Commander Comer organized a comprehensive POW/MIA Open Forum which was presented during the Washington Conference. The Special POW/MIA Committee met to plan 1988 activities and review the 1987 program.

March: Mailing sent to chairman with Washington Conference results.

June: Mailing sent to chairmen with suggested post cards to Hanoi and North Korea. The American Legion continued to provide office space for the National League of Families to coordinate closely with it. The Auxiliary contributed a substantial amount of funds to the National League of Families. Each issue of the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin included a POW/MIA Update. Throughout the year, numerous petitions to Hanoi and in support of POW/MIA stamps were forwarded.

Support by National Commander Comer

The Foreign Relations Commission deeply appreciates the outstanding leadership in the field of foreign relations exercised by National Commander Comer. He worked extensively to develop bipartisan support for Democracy, development, and security in Central America. He launched a new POW/MIA program by originating the POW/MIA Open Forum during the Washington Conference. He placed emphasis on foreign relations in his monthly Commander's Message in The American Legion Magazine, speeches, press conferences, and press releases. He took advantage of his trips to Central America, Europe, the Far East, and Latin America to study key issues of U.S. foreign policy. the National Commander explained the Legion's positions on foreign affairs in meetings with President Reagan, State Department officials, and numerous members of Congress. National Commander Comer's leadership and personal efforts greatly enhanced the Foreign Relations Program.

Commission Meetings

69th National Convention.—During a joint session with the National Security Commission, three speakers discussed major national issues. General Mox W. Thurmon, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, discussed the training state of the U.S. Army. He explained the many innovative programs made possible by modern technology and highly praised the capabilities of the young people serving in the Army. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Gaston Sigur analyzed U.S. security concerns in the Pacific, particularly concentrating on the movements toward Democracy in South Korea and the Philippines. Colonel John Lent, USA, Defense Attache in Costa Rica, presented a comprehensive update on developments in Central America and discussed prospects for future developments.

Fall National Executive Committee Meeting

The Foreign Relations Commission met at National Headquarters on October 12-13, 1987, to consider five resolutions properly before them and to discuss pertinent issues of foreign relations.

Chairman Keith Baker of the Special POW/MIA Committee presented a POW/MIA update. He discussed the significance of the President's appointment of a special POW/MIA emissary, General John Vessey, USA (Ret.), who visited Hanoi early in August. Chairman Baker urged all Legionnaires to intensify the pressure on Hanoi by writing letters urging speedy acceleration of progress on resolving the POW/MIA issue as a humanitarian problem separate from political issues between Vietnam and the United States.

Past National Commander Joe Matthews reported on his recent visit to the Soviet Union and on the necessity for close scrutiny of General Secretary Gorbachev's moves under the policy of glasnost. the Commission also discussed developments under the Central American peace plan and the US-USSR agreements in principle on nuclear arms control . On Tuesday morning a joint session was held with the National Security Commission to view briefings on Central America.

Washington Conference

The Foreign Relations Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 29 and Wednesday, March 2, 1988.

During the Monday morning meeting, the Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commission met in joint session. Mr. Morris D. Busby, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, in discussing the Guatemala City II Peace Plan, said, "The fact. .. is we have made a major effort to try and work with the four Central American democracies, to try to shape the way that agreement was being implemented, to make it work, and a great deal of time and effort has been expended in this." Describing the plan as a "basic deal" as a " fundamental swap" in the region, he pointed out that the Sandinistas, in accepting its provisions, agreed to became democratic, to open up their society, to become a pluralistic society, and to allow Nicaragua to compete politically in a democratic system. in return, the major insurgencies in the region were to be disenfranchised, including the Nicaraguan Resistance. Mr. Busby pointed out that the agreement "if you read it carefully, says the Sandinistas are obligated to immediately. . .under take those steps that are necessary to become a pluralistic society: lift their state of siege, have a free press, and live up to all of these obligations." He said there are two things needed to be done if the U.S. is to continue to try and move the peace effort forward. "We must vote in a package of legislation which will allow the Nicaraguans Resistance to continue. . . and the U.S. must send a signal to the Sandinistas, and to all of the governments of Central America, that we are in this for the long haul ." He also mentioned the severe problems in Colombia and Panama and concluded by emphasizing "how hard we (the United States) have to work to stabilize this entire region in order to bring peace."

General Alfred M. Gray, Jr., Commandant, United States Marine Corps, presented a comprehensive discussion of key personnel, readiness, equipment and training issues facing the Marine Corps today and those anticipated in the future. Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead, spoke on "Advancing Democracy in a World of Opportunity." He pointed out that great strides for Democracy have occurred in the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South America, and Central America. For 1988, he announced three principal foreign policy goals: to move ahead in the strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union, to continue support for the growth of democracy in Central America, and to encourage negotiations between the Arabs and Israel is to achieve peace. Secretary Whitehead stressed that only 1.5 percent of the Federal budget is spent on foreign affairs. Further cuts in that area would cause grave damage to U.S. National security. Additionally, congressional "micromanagement" of foreign affairs frequently restricts the Executive Branch's ability to conduct foreign policy effectively.

On Monday afternoon, the Foreign Relations Commission amended the speech by President Reagan and the POW/MIA Open Forum. During the forum, Mr. Richard T. Childress, National Security Council Staff, explained the U.S. Government's overall strategy on the Indochina POW/MIA issue. General Robert C. Kingston, USA (Ret.) reported on the mission to Hanoi last August by Genera John Vessey, Special Presidential Emissary for POW/MIA Affairs, during which the Vietnamese promised to accelerate progress and cooperation. Brigadier General James W. Shufelt, Defense Intelligence Agency, explained intelligence collection and analysis efforts related to the POW/MIA issue. Dr. Karl D. Jackson of the Pentagon, described the continuing efforts on POW/MIA issues from World War II and Korea. Representative Thomas J. Ridge reported on his mission to Hanoi in January in which he strongly informed the Vietnamese of the American people's determination to achieve progress on the issue. National Commander Albert J. Blond, American Ex-POWs, explained his organization's efforts to encourage more countries to sign the Geneva Convention treatment of POWs so that in any future wars prisoners would be humanely treated according to civilized standards. Chairman George L. Brooks, National League of POW/MIA Families, described the wide-ranging public awareness efforts conducted by his organization. During the forum, three question periods were held so that Legionnaires could pursue areas of interest with the speakers.

The Special POW/MIA Committee met on March 1 to review activities for 1987 and plan for 1988. The Public Awareness Program for 1988 will include emphasis on the "Write Hanoi" campaign, participation in POW/MIA commemorations on designated holidays, participation in National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies in September, support for issuance of a POW/MIA stamp by the U.S. Postal Service, publication of articles on the POW/MIA issue, informational activities of the National Convention, and consideration of using preprinted postcards to Hanoi.

On Wednesday morning, the Foreign Relations Commission conducted a business meeting. The agenda included consideration of resolutions, discussion of the upcoming publication of a Foreign Relations Handbook (designed to assist the conduct of Department and Past foreign relations programs), and a report by the Special POW/MIA Committee.

Spring National Executive Committee Meeting

The Foreign Relations Commission and Council and guests met at National Headquarters on May 4-5, 1988, to consider five resolutions properly before them and to discuss current foreign Relations issues.

Plans for the 70th National Convention were discussed, including speakers for the National Security-Foreign Relations joint session and numerous POW/MIA activities.

Past National Commander Robert Eaton analyzed the INF and START Treaties. He discussed the pit falls that must be avoided in a START Treaty, especially potential undercutting of the survivable portion of U.S. Nuclear Forces.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jack Hoyle presented on update on the unsettled political conditions in Panama, operation of the Panama Canal, alternatives for expansion of Canal capacity, and status of The American Legion in Panama.

The Commission also discussed POW/MIA developments, the situation in Central America, the summit conference, and the expanding U.S. role in the Persian Gulf.

On Tuesday morning, after discussing the draft version of the Foreign Relations Handbook, the Commission attended a joint session with the National Security Commission to view video tapes on Fire Prevention and Soviet Military Power.

Foreign Relations Commission Staff Activities

The Washington staff operates in Washington, D.C. as a combined division serving both the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions, under the overall direction of G. Michael Schlee. Mr. Harry E.B. Sullivan is the Deputy Director for Foreign Relations. Ms. Colleen Williams provides invaluable administrative support. Mrs. Denise Wilkins, Executive Secretary to the Director, does considerable work for Foreign Relations.

Staff Services.—The Foreign Relations Washington staff during the past year performed the following functions for the commission, the National Commander and the Legion's 58 Departments and approximately 16,000 Posts:

1. Preparation of policy papers supportive of the Legion's foreign relations mandates.
2. Preparation of background papers and speeches on foreign policy matters for the National Commander, Foreign Relations Commission, and individual Legionnaires.
3. Liaison with U.S. agencies in the executive branch, such as the Departments of State and Defense, and other federal agencies involved with international relations.
4. Preparation of Congressional testimony on international affairs.
5. Staff assistance for major activities, including the National Convention, National Executive Committee meetings, and the Washington Conference.
6. Liaison with foreign diplomatic personnel as appropriate in the support of Legion mandates.
7. Preparation of speeches, or tices, and interviews as required.
8. Preparation of articles for the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin, which is sent to 1,500 Legion and Auxiliary members.
9. In coordination with the Public Relations Division, preparation of an annual briefing describing the Foreign Relations Program.
10. Administrative duties such as answering correspondence, keeping posted on current international events and coordinating foreign affairs activities with other staff divisions, especially the Legislative and Public Relations Divisions.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

HERMAN G. HARRINGTON, New York, *Chairman*

RAYMOND C. PATTERSON, Iowa, *Director*

The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for policies relating to the internal structure and operation of The American Legion at all levels. In addition, all resolutions and other official matters not falling within the area of assigned duties of other national commissions or committees are handled by the Internal Affairs Commission.

Four national standing committees are assigned to the commission for "supervision and coordination": Constitution and By-Laws; Membership and post Activities; Resolutions Assignment; and Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials. The Internal Affairs Commission is also the supervisory body for the Sons of The American Legion organization.

Constitution and By-Laws

The only authority that can amend the National Constitution and By-Laws is accomplished by action of a National Convention. A standing committee on Constitution and By-Laws does, however, review and make recommendations of all proposed amendments.

Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials

This committee supervises all official national awards (with the exception of those related to uniform group competition) and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal, the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award.

Resolutions Assignment

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets only at the annual National Convention. The committee has the responsibility of assigning all resolutions to the appropriate convention committee for report to the convention.

The Sons of The American Legion

The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion met May 1, 1988 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In support of The American Legion's goal to raise $1,000,000 for the child Welfare Foundation, the NEC approved a resolution to make a $15,000 donation from their general fund to this worthy cause.

Membership in the Sons of The American Legion for 1987 was 90,249 and is expected to grow to 100,000 by December 31, 1988. The Sons of The American Legion's main emphasis this year is on the Commanders special project of Veterans Rehabilitation services in VA hospitals and VA homes. Also, the second main emphasis has been fund raising for the Child Welfare Foundation. This special project will be a continuing fund-raising project. The Sons of The American Legion remains a healthy and vibrant program experiencing continued growth and support from posts throughout the American Legion organization.

Paid-Up-For-Life

The American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life program started 13 years ago as a convenience to our members. Since its inception, and as of May 5, 1988, over 50,000 members have entered the national program.

This method of membership is the best way to ensure that one is always a paid-up continuous member. This is the most positive way one can show support for The American Legion and its programs.

Consolidated Post Reports

Last year, over 53 percent of The American Legion posts filed a Consolidated post Report with National Headquarters. The 1987–88 year shows some remarkable assistance to all levels of America: $5,413,828 donated to community service and over 2,000,000 hours voluntary service provided; sponsored 52,072 Boy Scouts at a cost of $1,342,022; contributions to VA Hospital Voluntary program exceeded 1.7 million dollars and over 1.1 million hours of service was provided; 108,942 pints of blood were donated by 56,368 donors; $8,279,312 was donated to sponsors of athletic teams; gave $1,965,772 in school scholarships; cash aid and value of goods given to 286,884 children totaled $2,510,076. The greatest duty that The American Legion has is its service to veterans. We meet our obligations with pride and honor.

Direct Renewal

One of the measures The American Legion uses to judge the success of the various programs is through the continuing strength of its membership. Instrumental to the retention of members in the organization is the Direct Renewal program, which is the use of a direct mail method that invites members to renew. This organized, uniform, and simple method has been a very successful and effective approach and is funded at NO COST to Departments or posts. Members of participating posts receive a first renewal letter about July or August 1, depending on Department. Subsequent renewal notices are mailed to unpaid members about October 1 or November 1, December 15 or January 4 and March 14 respectively.

An alternative to using the mail to renew members is to have dedicated Legionnaires personally contact members to continue their support. Personal contact plus the mail effort produces a winning formula and success in the area of membership retention for The American Legion.

National Leadership Workshops

The tenth annual series of National Leadership Workshops sponsored by the National Headquarters of The American Legion and Auxiliary in cooperation with all Departments will take place this September/October at eight regional sites around the United States.

This forum of workshops is a setting to discuss matters of interest to the organization but, more importantly, it offers the opportunity to inform, educate and provide leadership training to anyone wanting to learn more about the past, present and future of the Legion and Auxiliary. Many subject matters are covered, providing a blend of experiences, sharing of ideas, problem solving, information exchange, and the sharpening of skills.

Become a part of the 40,000 other members who have attended past workshops. Be a winner! Get involved! Attendees at these meetings get a first-hand opportunity to view this guiding principle in action.

Direct Membership Solicitation

Research studies have shown that many veterans would consider joining the American Legion, but they have never been asked. In an attempt to reach as many of these veterans as possible, we are soliciting new members through the mail. This new and exciting membership program is called Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS).

DMS has proven successful, having acquired over 500,000 new members for The American Legion since its inception. Fifty-two (52) Departments now participate in the DMS program.

Also being tested through the DMS program is Television Direct Response advertising as well as Direct Response Magazine advertising. DMS will continue to support The American Legion's drive for 3,000,000 plus members.

Family Benefit Plan

The American Legion Family Benefit plan was created to assist in the acquisition and retention of members while increasing the real and perceived value of every Legionnaire's card. Corporate sponsors of this plan offer a variety of discounts on hotel lodging, motor club membership, car rentals, and recreation parks.

At this time, discounts and services are being offered by the following companies: Allstate Motor Club, American Red Ball, Atlas Van Lines, Avis, Days Inn, La Quinta, Marriott, National Car Rental, North American Van Lines, Ramada, Regal 8, Rodeway, Sea World, Thrifty, United Van Lines and USAC Motoring Division. A handbook describing these discount offerings was printed and inserted in the first Direct Renewal Notice of 1988.

Renewal agreements are being finalized at this time and preparation for new promotional materials are under way. Efforts continue to seek potential new corporate sponsors in a greater variety of choices. Negotiations with existing corporate sponsors are ongoing to expand benefits and increase participation by our members.

MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DOMINIC D. DIFRANCESCO, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

JAMES M. LINDSEY, Michigan, *Director*

Membership in The American Legion will increase in 1988 over 1987 due in part to continued implementation of marketing programs designed to communicate the organizational goals to the veteran community. But to a larger extent this growth reflects the growing concern over National issues focusing on the veteran and his family and the desires to influence the disposition of those issues.

Membership Statistics

Total official membership, 1987	2,831,235
1987 membership as of August 2, 1987	2,824,448
1988 membership as of August 2, 1988	*2,822,583

*This figure will increase substantially August 8, which is the last 1988 membership target date.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

25th Annual National Membership Workshop

The National Membership Workshop was held this year in preparation for the 1989 membership year. The workshop was held at the Hilton Hotel in Indianapolis, July 29-31. The goal of the National Membership Workshop was to achieve a greater participation by individual Legionnaires in examining the membership objective of The American Legion. Workshop participants left Indianapolis motivated and committed to achieve 3,000,000 members plus, for the 1889 membership year.

National Leadership Workshop

We are again looking forward to our eight National Leadership Workshops during which we will take our Membership Workshop to the field. New posts

Charter Activity—May 1, 1986 to May 1, 1987

Number of posts as of July 1, 1987	15,503
Number of posts canceled as of July 1, 1988	137
Number of Posts chartered as of July 1, 1988	68
Total Number of Posts as of July 1, 1988	15,482

New Post formation in urban areas is one of the most difficult tasks confronting The American Legion. The membership Division has put together a Strategic planning Data Form for field personnel use. This form contains data from Departments to be used when formulating a strategic membership plan tailored to a particular Department The information will help target areas in which assistance is needed.

1989 Membership Campaign Promotion

During the annual planning session of the Membership and post Activities Committee held in Indianapolis, January 13-15, 1888, the Committee formulated the promotion plan for the 1989 National Membership Campaign. In excess of 65,000 various awards and incentives are incorporated in the National Membership Awards program for 1089 to recognize outstanding membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization.

The M&PA staff has prepared a detailed Awards Manual for 1989 and promotional brochures describing individual, post, District and Department Awards that can be earned for membership performance.

National Themes for 1989

During the M&PA annual planning session, the Committee readopted the National theme of "Get Involved! We're Winning!" as posts, Districts and Departments begin their 1989 Membership Campaign.

It was the consensus of the Committee that this is probably the most dynamic theme the Committee has adopted in several years. The theme continues the call for action in a positive effort and is directed at our own members, eligible non-members and the general public as well.

Several promotional items have been developed around this theme including posters, countertop displays, brochures, bumper stickers' decals and buttons.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

During 1988 a variety of gifts were awarded to each Department equalling or surpassing their assigned target date goals. This year, eight Department Commanders won their choices of three trips for piloting their respective Departments to 100% of their 1988 membership goals by March 81, 1988. Three Department Membership Chairmen also each won, by drawing, one of the same trips The trip choices were: 1) Four nights fun trip to Las Vegas; or 2) Seven fabulous days and nights in the Bahamas; or 8) A seven day vacation combination including four nights cruise with three days at Walt Disney World.

Early Bird Awards

Thirty-two Departments qualified for the 30% awards. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Panama Canal, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin.

Midway to Success

Twenty-nine Departments qualified for the 50% awards with twelve of them qualifying for the 55% bonus awards. The bonus Departments are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Maine, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin. The 50% Departments are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina' South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

Veterans Day Awards

Thirty-eight Departments qualified for the 75% awards with nine Departments qualifying for the 80% bonus awards. The bonus Departments are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, North: Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin. The 75% Departments are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Panama Canál, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

Big Twelve Competition

Thirty-five Departments qualified for the 90% awards with six of them qualifying for the 95% bonus award. The bonus Departments are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Minnesota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin. The 90% Departments are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mexico, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Mexico, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada. New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, panama Canal, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia.

Big Twelve Competition Winners

Category I.—Minnesota and Ohio.
Category II.—Wisconsin and Maryland.
Category III.—Nebraska and North Carolina.
Category IV.—South Dakota and North Dakota.
Category V.—Vermont and South Carolina.
Category VI.—District of Columbia and Delaware.

American Legion Birthday

Seven Departments qualified for the 100% awards. They are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Mexico, Ohio, panama Canal, West Virginia. Gold Brigade Recruiter Award.

A Legionnaire who recruited 50 or more NEW members by District Competition Target Date, May 2. 1988, qualified for enrollment in the elite. GOLD BRIGADE of The American Legion A total of 278 recruiters were certified. The combined number of new members recruited by Gold Brigade winners totals approximately 17,009 as of May 30, 1988.

Post Honor Ribbons

Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 2,052 Posts whose 1988 membership as of December 31, 1987, exceeds 1986 membership.

Certificate of Meritorious Services

These certificates were awarded to 497 posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 1988 by December 31, 1987.

Competition is divided into five categories based on the membership of the District

First place, a trip to the 500 Mile Race:
- Category I.—Arkansas.
- Category II.—Texas.
- Category III.—Connecticut.
- Category IV.—Arizona.
- Category V.—Ohio.

Second place, airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States:
- Category I.—Oregon.
- Category II.—Arizona.
- Category III.—Arizona.
- Category IV.—Ohio.
- Category V.—Ohio.

Third place, local get-away weekend:
- Category I.—North Carolina.
- Category II.—Delaware.
- Category III.—Wisconsin.
- Category IV.— Florida.
- Category V.—Ohio.

Department "Recruiter of the Year"

Each American Legion post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the Recruiter for that post who has signed up the highest number of New Members for the 1988 membership year by The American Legion Birthday, March 17, 1988. National Headquarters will supply certification forms to be completed by the post Commander or Adjutant and submitted to Department Headquarters by April 1, 1988. Department Adjutants will determine the Top New Member Recruiter for their respective Departments and certify the winner to National Headquarters, on or before May 2, 1988.

The Top New Member Recruiter, properly certified from each Department, will be awarded a State Outline Trophy with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon. Forty-four Departments have certified a "Top New Member Recruiter."

National "Recruiter of the Year"

The individual certified with the highest: number of New Members recruited from among all the Departments will be declared "National Recruiter of the year." The winner is Donald E. Lindberg of Post 29 in Glendale, Arizona. Great work, Don. Tell us your secret.

District Commander Achievement Award and District Winner

Over 165 Achievement Award Plaques and Honor Ribbons were sent to those Districts whose 1988 District Membership as of May 2, 1988 exceeded the 1987 membership by at least one other post.

District Commander New post Achievement Award Recipients

District Commanders who achieve the goal of creating new American Legion posts in their respective District and have the new Post Temporary Charter Application on file in National Headquarters by the 8th Target Date—District Commanders Competition—May 2, 1988, qualify for the following award:

Fredrick Sainz, Department of Arizona
Oliver H. Alston, Department of California
Steven Rex Castile, Department of California
George Ellis, Department of California
Frank Lumbert, Department of California
Gary McCracken, Department of California
Cecil Norland, Department of Colorado
Norman Deethardt, Department of Florida
Jessie Strong, Department of Idaho
Edward R. Cox, Department of Illinois
R.M. Yaden, Department of Kentucky
Joseph T. Badeaux, Sr., Department of Louisiana
Ira M. Tate, Department of Louisiana
William F. Miller, Department of Michigan
Randolph J. Browne, Department of Michigan
Albert Keller, Jr., Department of Michigan
Gerald Patterson, Jr., Department of Michigan
Dallas Turley, Department of Michigan
Gary Mace, Department of Minnesota
Thornton Moss, Jr., Department of Missouri
Robert Gosa, Department of Mississippi
William Damson, Department of New York
LeRoy G. Huff, Department of North Carolina
Donald Wunderlich, Department of North Dakota
LeRoy Bowers, Department of Ohio
Curtis W. McPherson, Department of Ohio
Robert D. Shalala, Department of Pennsylvania
Francis J. Block, Department of South Dakota
Farrell H. Harper, Department of Tennessee
Fete Henderson, Department of Texas
Jim Straker, Department of Texas
Roy D. McManners, Department of Texas
Gus Satterfield, Department of Texas

One New Post qualifies for Special Recognition plaque

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

GARY W. SAMMONS, Michigan, *Chairman*

E. PHILIP RIGGIN, Maryland, *Director*

Foreword

This report covers the activities of the Legislative Commission from August 1, 1987 through July 31, 1988. During this period, the commission met five times to review the legislative program and to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee. Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

Purpose, Personnel and Organization

The Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States on all legislative matters in which the Legion is officially interested, and it assists the National Executive Committee in formulating on appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of thirty-one members, three consultants, four National Executive Committee liaisons and a representative of the National Commander.

To further assist the Commission in its activities with Congress, the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 30–May 1, 1975, adopted Resolution 45 authorizing the establishment of a National Legislative Council, composed of Legionnaires who are politically active in their states and/or Congressional districts and whose judgment and advice are respected by their elected representatives. The Council is headed by a National Chairman, who is an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission, and is assisted by a Vice Chairman of each Legion Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendations by the Departments. The Spring 1977 meeting of the National Executive Committee further assisted the Commission by adopting a resolution to require additional Council members who have influence with Senators from their respective states. During its existence to date, the Council has been of invaluable service to the organization.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion which are expressed in resolutions adopted at National Conventions and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division, located in Washington, DC includes the director, two assistant directors, an executive secretary, a research analyst and one secretary. The staff maintains close liaison with all divisions of The American Legion, the National Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Legislative Committees in each Department.

Legislative News Bulletin

The Legislative News Bulletin, a publication on legislative activities affecting American Legion mandates, is published by the Legislative Division monthly at a $6 annual subscription rate. The Bulletin keeps its readers informed on the status of The American Legion's legislative program and serves as an excellent source of material for speeches, articles and reports by the officers and members of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

100th Congress—First Session

With the passage of one, huge omnibus appropriations measure for Fiscal Year 1988 (P.L. 100-202), the entire spectrum of federal programs was funded at once. One area of great interest to the Legion which was funded by this measure was the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in the Justice Department, which received $70 million for programs designed to combat juvenile delinquency nationwide. The American Legion has successfully fought against administration efforts each year since 1981 to eliminate funding for these programs.

In an attempt to step up the war on illegal drugs, P.L. 100-202 contained $1.1 billion in funding for the U.S. Customs Service with sufficient funding to create over 1200 new positions, most of which are customs inspectors and import specialists. The administration had sought to eliminate just over 2000 positions by turning to increased use of technology, but Congress questioned the effectiveness of that technology and approved the needed extra funds. Congress justified the increased staffing in part by saying that extra people were needed to help crack down on drug traffickers.

The week of September 13–19, 1987 was recognized as "National Reye's Syndrome Awareness Week" by the provisions of P.L. 100–110. Most prevalent among children and young adults, this viral disease has killed 30 percent of its victims and left another 15–25 percent with brain damage. P.L. 100–166, enacted November 13, 1987, established the week of November 22–28, 1987 (which included Thanksgiving Day) as "National Family Week." The American Legion has consistently taken the lead over the last several years in having this commemorative week recognized as an important time for the American family. This week was also recognized as "National Adoption Week" by P.L. 100–172 in an effort to focus continuing attention on the thousands of children who do not have a normal home life and those adults who seek to offer such a life to parentless children.

On December 21, 1987 President Reagan signed P.L. 100–198, a measure revising the VA's home-loan guaranty program. A new two-tiered guaranty system for VA home loans is in place. For mortgages of $45,000 or less, the VA will offer a guarantee of 50 percent of the loan; for mortgages over $45,000 the VA will back 40 percent of the loan or $36,000, whichever is lower. (Previously the VA guaranteed mortgages up to $27,500 or 60 percent of the loan, whichever was lower.) The new law also set up a variety of procedures to aid veterans in danger of defaulting on their loans. One such procedure requires that a person assuming a VA home loan must have a good credit rating, allowing the veteran to avoid liability should the nonveteran assumer be unable to continue paying on the loan. The law also provides that counseling be offered to any veteran whose home loan is in default. Finally, the law reauthorizes the one percent user fee on VA home loans for two years.

As part of the omnibus appropriations measure for FY 1988 (P.L. 100–202), approximately $723 million was appropriated to operate local employment offices. This money was mode available despite on intense ongoing "devaluation" campaign—a scheme by the federal government seeking to place employment services completely under state control. The Legion has actively opposed the idea because "devaluation" would make the concept of veterans preference unenforceable. The same public law also appropriated $140 million for specialized assistance under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment. These funds are principally devoted to salaries for Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER).

Also included in the omnibus FY 1988 appropriations legislation was at least $14 million in continued supplies and services to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters (contras) through February 29, 1988. The aid includes such nonmilitary, humanitarian aid as food, clothing, shelter medical services and supplies and payment for these items; transportation for the abovementioned material; and, Defense Department electronics equipment to allow the CIA to deliver the supplies deep within Nicaragua. A set of procedures was also formulated by which Congress may approve further contra aid early in the Second Session. The American Legion will continue to press for further aid to the contras to keep pressure on the Sandinista regime to continue reforms it started after signing the regional peace plan in August of 1987.

For the sixth year in a row, Congress failed to pass a separate foreign aid appropriations bill, instead wrapping funding for various programs into P.L. 100–202. Of $13.6 billion in total foreign assistance, the largest recipients of this aid were Israel and Egypt. Israel received $3 billion in military and economic aid, while Egypt received $2.1 billion in combined aid for FY 1988. Pakistan also received substantial amounts of both military and economic aid, totaling $480 million. The unstable situations in the Philippines and Central America also attracted funding from Congress, with $339 million in military, economic, developmental and agrarian reform aid earmarked for the Philippines. As for Central America, several countries received varying amounts of aid. Specifically, El Salvador was given $185 million, Costa Rico $90 million, Honduras $85 million, and Guatemala received $87 million in combined military/economic assistance.

Despite the administration's repeated efforts since 1981 to eliminate all such funds, Congress appropriated $517 million in FY 1988 for the Revenue Foregone postal subsidy as part of P.L. 100–202. This subsidy is designed to defray postage costs for nonprofit mailers. As a nonprofit mailer, The American Legion actively fought for these funds. It has been successfully argued that, through the free or reduced rate mailing made possible by the postal subsidy, community-based services have been provided to millions of Americans, at considerable savings to the federal and local governments. It is expected that this funding will be sufficient to maintain essential stability in nonprofit mail rates through September, 1988.

Included in P.L. 100-203, a budget reconciliation measure for FY 1988, are revised rules for lobbying by tax-exempt groups. These regulations are aimed at tightening disclosure requirements by organizations which abuse their tax-exempt status. However, these new limitations do not adversely affect The American Legion's current lobbying efforts, as the Legion still enjoys special status as a tax-exempt organization which can still engage in lobbying (which was upheld by a Supreme Court ruling in May of 1983).

Included in the omnibus appropriations measure for FY 1988 was $292 billion for the Defense Department, including military construction projects and nuclear weapons research. Strategic weapons funding led the way, with $864 million being appropriated for procurement of 12 peacekeeper missiles and $700 million going to an account specifically for further development of a smaller ICBM dubbed Midgetman. A 15th Trident missile submarine and an unspecified number of Trident II missiles were funded at a total of $2.9 billion. For various conventional weapons, $1.45 billion went for 660 M-1 tanks, $811 million for 77 Apache helicopters, $225 million for Cobra tank-hunting copters, $6.37 billion for various combat planes (F-14, F-15, F-16 and F/A-18). $500 million was included to continue development of an Advanced Technology Fighter (ATF, or "Stealth"), $6.3 billion for two new aircraft carriers, $4.13 billion for 5 Aegis radar cruisers, and $1.46 billion for three new Los Angeles-class submarines (designed to hunt enemy subs).

Funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was set at a level of $3.9 billion by enactment of P.L. 100-180. President Reagan's original request for $5.8 billion was set aside. In addition, several congressional prohibitions against testing of either SDI or anti-satellite weapons which may violate the still-unratified SALT II Treaty of 1979 were amended to the legislation.

The Coast Guard's operation budget for FY 1988 was funded at $1.9 billion, with $100 million of that amount coming from the Defense Department. This total is essentially identical to the amount appropriated for FY 1987. Operating funds are used primarily for air-sea rescue, drug interdiction, and interception of illegal aliens. Drug enforcement activities were specifically funded at a level of $249 million.

Two independent agencies which always draw the Legion's special attention are the Selective Service System and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Selective Service received $25.5 million for expenses and salaries associated with FY 1988 operations. NASA's budget for FY 1988 was set at $8.86 billion, which was $1.88 billion less than was enacted for the space agency the previous year. The proposed space station account was the single biggest loser. The administration had originally sought $767 million for this project but Congress only funded the program at a level of $425 million. The majority of that funding is being withheld until NASA reports on revisions in the project in view of budget constraints. Until a report is delivered to the appropriations committees, new budget authority for the space station will be capped at $200 million.

Appropriations for the Veterans Administration for FY 1988 were set at $27.1 billion. Veterans compensation and pension accounts were funded at $14.3 billion, and $625 million was made available for educational assistance. medical care funds were increased by approximately $400 million to a level of $10.1 billion. It is intended that this figure will support a personnel level of 194,190. The medical and prosthetic research account was set at $193 million, slightly higher than FY 1987 levels. General operating expenses, designed primarily for regional office activities, will be funded at $762 million. It is intended that a personnel level for the Department of Veterans Benefits be maintained at not less than 12,915. Finally, $519 million was designated for VA medical facility construction and renovation, including $403 million for major projects and $116 million for minor projects.

On December 31, 1987 P.L. 100-227 was enacted, increasing veterans compensation and DIC payments by 4.2 percent. The cost-of-living adjustment goes to service-connected disabled veterans, dependents and survivors of disabled veterans, and was made retroactive to December 1. This increase was equal to the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security recipients.

President Reagan on November 6 enacted P.L. 100-155, which established the week of November 8-14, 1987 as "National Women Veterans Recognition Week." The special service as well as the special needs of women veterans, who make up about 4 percent of all veterans, have been spotlighted as a result of this commemorative week.

On November 10 at a White House meeting of various veterans groups' leaders, President Reagan offered his support for H.R. 3471 which would elevate the VA from the status of on independent agency to an executive department. One week later, the House voted 399-17 to pass H.R. 3471. This legislation garnered 210 co-sponsors within three days of its introduction. Testimony before House and Senate committees emphasized that the VA, besides providing services for nearly 45 percent of this nation's population, is also the largest federal agency after the Defense Department. While congressional support for the proposal is substantial, there were dozens of newspaper editorials nationwide since mid-November opposing the idea.

On November 29 the President signed P.L. 100-176 to reauthorize the various programs of the Older Americans Act. The VA currently consults with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on aging veterans' programs under provisions of the Older Americans Act. Specifically, the VA and HHS consult in the area of improved treatment methods for aging Americans, especially in noninstitutional environments. This is especially important as this country's veteran population grows older and many will be seeking help in their day-to-day living, either through the VA or some other organization. The American Legion will continue in its efforts to see that this country's older veterans will receive the best care possible for as long as they require it.

100th Congress—Second Session

As Congress reconvened in January, 1988 it faced a business agenda which contained many items left over from the First Session. It also faced severe time constraints produced by a presidential election year and congressional campaign demands in home districts and states. The primary election season from February through June produced frequent congressional absences on Capital Hill, and this situation was aggravated by the presidential aspirations of several leaders in Congress.

Although these distractions slowed the progress of legislation in early 1988, congressional work on federal budgetary matters moved quickly in June and July. This accelerated pace of budgetary business (by comparison to recent years) was largely the result of a two-year spending agreement reached in November, 1987. The agreement, a negotiated settlement among White House and Capital Hill leaders, has allowed Congress to avoid extended debate on money bills. In recent years budgetary disagreements have led to virtual stalemates and have forced the federal government to operate on all-inclusive, continuing appropriations resolutions.

Apart from its annual budgetary concerns, The American Legion's legislative interests in 1988 partially focused on several veterans matters which remained unresolved from 1987 and the First Session. They included legislation to elevate the VA to full Department status, an omnibus veterans bill affecting dozens of health care benefits/services, and a veterans employment initiative to reinforce the delivery of job placement assistance.

The American Legion's legislative efforts thus for in 1988 have been largely successful, and several additional goals are expected to be reached before the 100th Congress adjourns in the fall. The remaining portion of this report offers on accounting of how the organization's legislative portfolio has fared during this Second Session.

Americanism

On May 4, 1988 the period during which illegal aliens could apply for legal status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-603) ended. Approximately 2.1 million illegals applied under both the regular amnesty program as well as the special agricultural workers program. This 2.1 million figure was as much as one million persons under estimate put forth by experts as to the numbers of illegals who would take advantage of this one-time only attempt to get this country's illegal immigration problem under control. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) estimates that probably 95 percent of all applicants would be found eligible for temporary resident alien status. Those who do not qualify will be considered illegal and liable for arrest, prosecution and deportation.

In April of this year a last-minute effort to extend the amnesty deadline until the end of the year passed the House by a very close margin. However, the effort died in the Senate. Opponents in the Senate argued successfully that: an extension would only serve to confuse some illegals; it would demonstrate that the U.S. is not truly serious about controlling its borders; and, it would encourage other illegals to attempt to cross our borders, adding fuel to later calls for another amnesty.

During the last month of the amnesty application period the INS mounted an intensive media campaign urging illegals to file applications for legalization. It also began accepting bare-bones applications from illegals who would fill out their forms, pay their fees and return within 60 days with their proper documentation. There were also reports of floods of applicants coming to INS offices throughout the country during the last days of the program.

As part of the original legislation, employers throughout the country were required to check job applicants' documentation indicating legal status. Employers found to be consistently using illegal aliens in their business were generally given warnings by the INS in lieu of being arrested or fined. However, with the end of the application period, employers are now liable for fines or jail terms if they continue to hire illegals. The INS is currently developing regulations aimed at allowing temporary resident aliens to attain permanent resident status, only one step away from full citizenship. The preliminary regulations include such standards as a basic understanding of written and spoken English as well as of American history and government. The American Legion will continue to monitor this situation closely.

On April 28 the President signed P.L. 100-297, a comprehensive $7.5 billion school aid reauthorization measure. The legislation is designed to revise and extend most federal elementary, secondary and adult education programs. The measure originally passed the House by a 401-1 count, while the Senate's version was approved by a 97-1 vote. The one area in P.L. 100-297 which has concerned the Legion most is bilingual education. For over twenty years, 96 percent of all bilingual education funds could be used to fund only one type of bilingual instruction, called transitional bilingual education, which requires that classes be taught in the native language of the non-English proficient student as well as English. Alternative instructional programs of bilingual education, such as English as a second language (ESL) or immersion, were limited to only 4 percent of bilingual funds up to $140 million and half of any additional funds, but no more than ten percent of the total.

Under the provisions of P.L. 100-297, this funding cap on alternative bilingual programs would be raised from 4 percent to 25 percent of all funds for instruction. Further, a student participating in a federally-funded bilingual education program would be prohibited from staying in the program for longer than three years (though under certain conditions, a student could remain in a program for up to five years, but no longer). Legislation has been introduced, H.R. 4817, which would make it illegal to import foreign-made U.S. flags into this country. The bill, introduced by Representative Harley Staggers (WV), was introduced on June 14 (Flag Day).

Economics

On May 20, 1988 President Reagan enacted P.L. 100-323, the Veterans' Employment, Training and Counseling Amendments of 1988. This legislation stabilizes job training and counseling programs by authorizing funds and by clarifying the Department of Labor's role. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that this law will cost $86 million in FY 1989. The American Legion played a premiere role in drafting this legislation which calls for a two year extension of the Veteran Jobs training Act, training of employment specialists at the National Veterans' Employment and training Institute, and funding for Disable Veterans' Outreach program (DVOP's) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER's). This employment initiative requires a series of managerial changes to insure that DVOP's and LVER's are performing their duties at acceptable levels of competence. Other changes clearly define LVER responsibilities and mandate greater LVER accountability to the local job service office manager. That accountability also extends to the State Director for Veterans Employment and training.

The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) is due to expire on December 31 of this year. TJTC offers an attractive incentive for employers to hire certain economically disadvantaged groups including Vietnam era veterans. It provides employers with a tax credit of 40 percent of the first year's wages up to $2,400 per employee. In 1987 nearly 30,000 veterans obtained meaningful employment through this cost-effective federal program. The American Legion is continuing its efforts to secure passage of legislation to extend this program for an additional three years. H.R. 3719 has been introduced to effect this extension and enjoys wide support in the House. Currently, efforts to enact this measure are focused on inclusion in the technical corrections amendments to the 1986 tax reform bill. A number of initiatives have been taken over the first six months of 1988 to address growing concerns over the solvency of the Home Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund (LGRF). On February 29, the President signed the Veterans Home Loan Program Emergency Amendments Act into law. This law, P.L. 100-253, allows the VA to relax down payment requirements in the sale of homes acquired by the VA through foreclosure and also corrects a technical error in earlier legislation which restricted the use of residual entitlement for a home loan guaranty.

The Senate passed S. 2049, the Veterans Home Loan Improvement Act, on April 29. This bill calls for the creation of a commission to study the entire VA home loan guaranty program. The American Legion has testified in support of this legislation.

A companion bill has been introduced in the House as H.R. 4515. Hearings have not yet been scheduled for this proposal in that chamber.

On April 29, the President enacted a $709.1 million urgent supplemental spending measure for FY 1988 in order to head off the imminent shutdown of the VA home loan program. This measure, P.L. 100-304, provided $526.6 million to pay for defaults on guaranteed home loan mortgages. An additional $182.5 million was authorized to replenish funds borrowed from other VA accounts to keep the loan guaranty Revolving Fund solvent while awaiting the supplemental appropriation.

Draft legislation currently under consideration in the House calls for the creation of a mortgage indemnity fund to be funded by a 1 1/4 percent indemnity fee supplemented for three consecutive years by a 1/4 percent contribution from the federal government. This proposal would abolish the current one percent user fee charged veterans in obtaining a VA loan guaranty. This concept calls for a total indemnification of the veteran in the event of foreclosure.

The American Legion continues to work with Congress in the development of methodologies to deal with the problems involving the LGRF, which since 1984 has required annual appropriations to remain solvent. The American Legion believes that a revenue-generating loan portfolio could be built with vendee loans retained by the agency rather than sold. The American Legion feels that the long-term viability of the VA home loan program hinges on securing an income source to replenish the LGRF at no cost to the veteran.

Foreign Relations

The congressional debate over contra aid (highlighted by two negative votes in early February and March), become very heated and partisan in nature. Supporters of continued military aid pushed hard to provide the Nicaraguan freedom fighters with military aid; however, a majority of members of Congress wanted to give the peace process initiated by Costa Rican President Arias a chance to work. After the Sandinistas launched a preemptive invasion of Honduras in mid-March and 3,200 American troops were deployed to that country (at the request of the president of Honduras), the peace process appeared to be almost dead. However, on March 23 representatives of the Sandinistas and the contras continued their meetings and hammered out a cease-fire agreement.

Under the terms of that agreement: a sixty day cease-fire started on April 1; the contras moved into specified zones in Nicaragua; a gradual amnesty for contra prisoners of war was promised; the contras could only receive humanitarian aid from neutral organizations; all political or other exiles could return to Nicaragua without fear of possible punishment; the government promised unrestricted freedom of expression; and, the contras were guaranteed free participation in local and national elections.

As a result of the signing of the peace accord, Congress approved a $49 million package of aid to the contras on March 30 and 31 and was signed into law by the President the next day as P.L. 100-276. The aid consists of three main parts: $17.7 million in food, clothing, medical supplies and services, and radio equipment; $17.7 million in medical care and other aid to children who are victims of the Nicaraguan civil strife (none of which may be provided to or through the Nicaraguan government for this purpose); $10 million will be provided to support the Verification Commission that will monitor the cease-fire agreement. A final portion states that Congress is providing aid to the contras with the understanding and "strong expectation" that the contras and the Sandinistas will stop military action against each other and engage in good-faith negotiations toward a permanent cease-fire in the region.

The American Legion shares the some strong expectations with the Congress. In addition, the Legion urges vigilance to insure that the terms of the cease-fire will be followed, especially Sandinista guarantees for free elections and freedom of expression (two areas in which the Sandinistas have been deficient in the past). Further cease-fire talks become bogged down in June triggering calls in Congress for more aid to the contras. Current aid to the contras runs through September 30. Should the cease-fire agreement broken and the Sandinistas are clearly to blame, President Reagan would almost certainly request further military aid.

On May 27, after extensive hearings and floor debate, the Senate approved the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty for ratification by the President. The 93-5 vote cleared the way for the treaty to be formally ratified by the President while in Moscow for the summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The treaty entered into force on June 1, 1988 when the two leaders exchanged the documents of ratification.

In apparent response to the President's failure to notify members of Congress of covert arms sales to Iran the Congress is considering legislation which, if enacted, would require the President to notify certain members of Congress of the conduct of covert operations within 48 hours of approval of a finding which permits covert activities. On March 15, the Senate passed S. 1721, and efforts are underway to remove the 48-hour notification provision from the House version, H.R. 3822. Administration officials have notified both the House and Senate of the President's opposition to the notification requirement.

Legislation is currently being developed in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative law to curb lobbying by former executive and legislative branch officials. This measure would prohibit, for one year, former members of Congress from lobbying in the chamber in which the member served. Congressional staffers would also be banned from lobbying former colleagues for one year. Former senior executive branch employees would be permanently banned from aiding or advising anyone on a matter in which the employee was personally involved during government service. Although not as far-reaching as S. 237, a similar bill passed by the Senate in April, this proposal appears to meet The American Legion's objectives in reducing the influence of former government officials in the conduct of present-day activities.

Internal Affairs

The House Ways and means Subcommittee on Oversight is reviewing the current Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) laws and evaluating certain commercial activities being conducted by tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations. The subcommittee wants to prevent abuses and unfair competition practices by tax-exempt organizations by refining definitions and guidelines governing UBIT. The fact that an organization is required to pay UBIT normally does not affect their tax-exempt status. The commercial activities specifically addressed include travel services, laboratory testings, hearing aid and medical sales, physical fitness and recreational services, affinity credit cards, computer sales, mail-order catalogs, and veterinary services. The subcommittee will conclude hearings this summer and submit its findings to the full committee. Possible legislation on UBIT is anticipated in the 101st Congress.

For the seventh consecutive year, this administration requested no funds for the nonprofit postal subsidy when it presented its Fiscal Year 1989 budget recommendations to Congress. The American Legion appeared before two congressional subcommittees and characterized the reduced mail rate subsidy as a legitimate federal investment in community service, precisely the sort of private "self help" activity that has been consistently advocated by this administration as an alternative to public tax-supported services. Congress has responded to this appeal. House and Senate legislation (H.R. 4775) approved by each chamber in slightly different forms seeks approximately $430 million for the subsidy in FY 1989.

National Security

The Defense Department appropriations bill, H.R. 4781, continues the trend of making real, after-inflation cuts of approximately 1.4 percent in defense spending. The bill recommends defense funding of $282.6 billion for FY 1989, $557 million less than the "budget summit" estimated last November. This legislation made every effort to avoid reductions in the nation's defense readiness, while recognizing the need to reduce federal expenditures in all areas to reduce the large deficits facing the federal government.

The bill provides funding for an authorized active duty end strength of 2,138,300 and a selected reserve end strength of 1,173,589. Additionally, it includes a 4 percent pay raise for military personnel and a 2 percent pay raise for civilian employees. Bonuses to encourage Navy and Air Force pilots to remain in the military were appropriated, although the secretary of Defense must present a new plan for payment of funds before the funds become available.

The bill gives priority to operation and maintenance funding, since these accounts are vital to the readiness of our nation's armed forces. Funds were increased on "budget summit" estimates for: medical programs; operations in the Persian Gulf; repair of the *USS Samuel B. Roberts*; some central supply and depot maintenance functions; foreign currency costs associated with actual exchange rates which are different from budgeted exchange rates; and, national drug interdiction efforts.

Major procurement programs which are funded by this measure include: 180 F-16's; 84 F/A-18's; 42 F-15's, 141 M-1 tanks; 66 Trident 11 (D-5) missiles; 4 C-17 aircraft; 1240 AMRAAM missiles; 12 Peacekeeper missiles; 74 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and one combat mission simulator; 815 Patriot air defense missiles; 12

F-14's; 47 KC-135 re-engining kits; 550 Bradley fighting vehicles; 510 Tomahawk cruise missiles; 1310 Standard missiles; 350 MK-48 ADCAP torpedoes; 24 AV-8D Harriers; and, 72 UH-60 Blackhawk utility helicopters.

Research, Development, Test and Evaluation activities will be funded for the Forward Air Defense System; Sense and Destroy Armor (SADARM) Submunition; LHX light armed scout helicopter; Advanced Anti-Tank Weapon System; V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft; SSN-21 attack submarine and submarine combat system; Advanced Tactical Fighter; National Aerospace plane; ICBM modernization; C-17; space boasters; Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI); and, SEMITECH. Among the most important sharp reductions in the "budget summit" request were the SDI program (a $1.3 billion reduction) and for the development of a rail-basing scheme for the peacekeeper missile, with $693 million excised from that account.

This bill does not provide for military construction, military family housing, civil defense or nuclear weapons, for which requirements are considered in connection with other appropriations bills. As the bill heads for the House floor, the Legion will continue to monitor its progress and encourage lawmakers to consider our current resolutions.

The 1988 House version of the Omnibus Anti-Drug Bill will follow the similar path of the 1986 bill that become P.L. 99-570; i.e., all 11 committees with jurisdiction will send their contributions to the Majority Leader for inclusion in the large bill. The Banking Committee approved the money-laundering provisions to prevent drug smugglers from collecting several cashier's checks from banks undetected, to impose a $10,000 civil penalty on insured banks that willfully violated Treasury requirements specifying that certain in-house records must be kept for a five-year period, and to give the secretary of the Treasury the authority to determine the appropriate dollar level at which banks would not be allowed to issue bank or cashier's checks unless the individual requesting the check had on account with the bank or could show appropriate identification.

The Ways and Means Committee adopted on FY 1989 authorization for the U.S. Customs Service that included 500 new positions to be split between enforcement and operations. Customs would receive 1.039 billion for salaries and expenses and $197 million for operations and maintenance of air-interdiction efforts. Also approved was a provision that increased the penalty for failure to declare a controlled substance from 200 percent to 1000 percent of the value of the article. Additionally, it allows forfeited property of drug smugglers to be transferred to state, local or foreign governments that cooperate with the Customs Service in joint law enforcement operations. An additional $10 million for purchase of a prototype of an X-ray imagery vapor-sensitive scanning device that uses chemicals to aid in the detection of drugs and weapons in large cargo containers was approved.

The war on drugs has escalated to included the Armed Forces. The defense appropriations bill called for $475 million in funding to buy radar planes and other items to help the Coast Guard and the military fight narcotics trafficking. $120 million was earmarked for the Navy's drug interdiction efforts. Half of the Navy's funding would be transferred to the Coast Guard for operation and maintenance of the equipment provided elsewhere in the bill, and for the other Coast Guard operating purposes relating to the interdiction of the transportation of illegal, addictive narcotics into the United States, as considered appropriate by the secretary of transportation. Additionally, the Army budget was increased by $2 million for support of the national drug interdiction efforts, and $350 million has been set aside to buy planes, boats, helicopters, surveillance systems, and other equipment. The biggest single item was $120 million for three E-2C Hawkeye radar planes to be used to monitor air traffic into this country from narcotics-shipping countries. The American Legion supports the increased effort of Congress to intercept and deter drugs being smuggled into the United States.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

On May 20, President Reagan signed three measures into law which had a wide-ranging effect on many portions of the Legion's legislative portfolio. One of these measures, P.L. 100-323, was reported on in the Economics portion of this report. Also signed at that time were P.L. 100-321 and P.L. 100-322.

P.L. 100-321 is landmark legislation which The American Legion has supported for several years. This law begins paying compensation benefits to veterans who participated in atmospheric nuclear tests between 1946 and 1962 or in the occupations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan at the end of World War II. This new law will provide benefits to those veterans or their survivors if they contract any one of 13 cancers: leukemia (except chronic lymphocytic leukemia); multiple myeloma;

lymphomas (except Hodgkin's disease); and cancers of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), and gall bladder. The presumptive period for these diseases, except leukemia, will be forty years beginning the last day on which the victim participated in nuclear tests or the occupation of Japan. Veterans claiming benefits for leukemia will have a 30-year presumptive period, because the risk of developing leukemia based on radiation exposure becomes negligible after that point. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this program will cost $15 million in FY 1988 and $36 million annually thereafter.

P.L. 100-322 is an omnibus veterans health measure addressing a variety of medical programs. One of the most significant parts of the legislation is expanded entitlement to VA outpatient medical care. The VA is required to give care to any veteran: with a specific service-connected disability; with a disability of 50 percent or more; or, disabled as a result of VA treatment or in pursuit of vocational rehabilitation. Also, the VA would be required to furnish outpatient care prior to hospital admission or to obviate the need for hospitalization to any veteran: with a service-connected disability rated 30 percent or greater; or, whose income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of nonservice-connected pension payable to a veteran in need of aid and attendance for any disability. This measure also allows the VA to furnish outpatient care to veterans rated less than 30 percent disabled, to former prisoners of war and other veterans including those exposed to toxic substances in Vietnam and ionizing radiation from nuclear explosions during World War II and later testing.

Another portion of the law requires the VA to reimburse veterans for travel expenses to and from VA medical facilities. A $6.00 deductible for each round trip with a monthly cap was passed. Other provisions include: substantial increases in per diem rates for state veterans home care; extension of VA's authority to provide adult day care; a definition of VA's policy regarding treatment of and testing for the AIDS virus; fee-basis health care for certain veterans living in Canada and the Philippines; and, repeal of the mandatory transition of Vet Centers into parent VA medical facilities. Also included in the law are medical care administrative changes to include incentives to recruit and retain scarce health care specialists, as well as annual requirements for VA to report on its efforts to assist homeless veterans.

Other miscellaneous provisions of P.L. 100-322 include: VA procedural changes for setting priorities for state veterans homes' construction grants; prohibition against VA declaring as excess certain lands in southern California at two VA medical centers; and, an agreement whereby the Air Force will cede jurisdiction of certain land in North Dakota to the VA to be used as a Job Corps Center operated by the Labor Department.

As mentioned earlier in this report, attempts to elevate the VA to a Cabinet-level agency is an on-going process in the 100th Congress. After the House passed its version of this legislation in November, a similar Senate bill, S. 233, came under increased scrutiny. On April 14, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee recommended adoption of S. 533 by a vote of 9-0. This action followed a four month long process during which the committee held three hearings and conducted an exhaustive examination of the entire matter. The American Legion worked extensively with committee chairman John Glenn (OH) to insure that any amendments to the bill would not detract from the proposals principal purpose of creating a Department of Veterans Affairs.

Despite the Legion's successes in securing committee approval of a clean bill, several members of the Senate continued in their attempts to attach "killer" amendments to this bill by offering amendments for consideration during floor debate. Commander Comer met with several influential members of the Senate on June 6 and 7 in an attempt to prevent this from occurring. On July 12, the full Senate voted 84-11 in favor of S. 533.

With Senate passage of S. 533, a conference will be necessary to resolve differences between this measure and its House counterpart, H.R. 3471. The major differences involve the organizational arrangement of the proposed Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of Department officers which would be subject to Senate confirmation, and the job requirements of persons selected to handle day-to-day operation of the veterans benefits and medical care systems.

The House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Education, training and Employment marked up legislation, H.R. 4213, to amend P.L. 98-525, the Montgomery GI Bill. Shortly thereafter, the measure was marked up by the full committee. The legislation would authorize new payments for refresher training, part-time coursework, and flight training for eligible veterans. Additionally, it would address situations in which a program participant dies or is incapacitated on active duty or within 6 years after that person's discharge from the military. The Legion anticipates House floor action on this amendment later this session.

In 1988, after taking no action on the issue last year, Congress again turned its attention to judicial review of VA claims decisions. As in the past several Congresses, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee initiated action by holding a hearing in late April and clearing legislation (S. 11) in late June. Unlike previous years, several alternatives to judicial review of individual claims were offered. They included a plan devised by our organization's National Executive Committee in May, 1988 (introduced on July 13 as H.R. 5039). The Legion's recommendation calls for an independent Board of Veterans Appeals, court review of VA regulations, greater procedural protections for veterans, and the authority for reasonable attorney fees.

On July 11 the Senate passed S. 11, and the entire issue has moved to the House where a hearing by the Veterans Affairs Committee is expected in early September. The Legion's plan will be a focus of serious consideration in that chamber, particularly among many members who feel that court review of individual claims decisions (as called for in S. 11) is not the most effective way to improve the adjudication process.

On June 22 the House approved legislation (H.R. 4800) containing VA appropriations for FY 1989, and July 13 the Senate passed a different version of that measure. Both of these bills call for VA funding in the neighborhood of $28.2 billion. While both of them appropriate more money for health care than the administration requested, the House figure of $10.5 billion is about $100 million above the Senate's. Appropriations Committee members in both chambers are now in conference to resolve differences in the two versions of H.R. 4800.

Since the beginning of the Second Session of the 100th Congress, The American Legion has testified personally or submitted testimony to congressional committees or subcommittees on thirty five occasions. Statement subjects have ranged the entire gamut of the Legion's legislative portfolio, from oversight of the VA's canteen service to Defense Department appropriations, from the impact of unrelated business income tax on nonprofit organizations to the erection of a Vietnam Women's Memorial.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ROGER A. MUNSON, Ohio, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

> "I have often said, nations do not distrust each other because they are armed; they are armed because they distrust each other. If this globe is to live in peace and prosper, if it is to embrace all the possibilities of the technological revolution, then nations must renounce, once and for all, the right to an expansionist foreign policy. Peace between nations must be an enduring goal—not a tactical stage in a continuing conflict."
>
> *May 1988*
>
> PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
> To the Students and Faculty of
> Moscow State University

As has been its custom since its inception, the National Security Commission has attempted to remain informed, and to keep the membership of The American Legion informed on the range of issues related to the defense of the United States in order to recommend responsible national security policies to the governing bodies of The American Legion. To accomplish this task, the Commission conducts regular meetings designed to provide members current information from responsible government officials on timely issues concerning national security. One of these meetings takes place in conjunction with the National Convention, two in conjunction with the meetings of the National Executive Committee, and the fourth is held during the Annual Washington Conference of The American Legion.

Pre-Convention Activities

On August 20, 1987, 160 members of the National Security Commission visited various Air Force and Army installations only minutes away from the Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The visit began at Fort Sam Houston with an overview briefing on the Fifth U.S. Army followed by a tour of the medical training Center. At Randolph Air Force Base, Commission members lunched at the officer's club and, that afternoon received additional orientations from instructor pilots, a tactical fighter squadron, and from the headquarters of the Air Force Military Personnel Center. The following day, the main attraction included the review of a Basic Military Training Squadron graduation which was followed by a luncheon with trainees in their dining facility. That afternoon, Commission members toured the Aerospace Medical Division and witnessed flight demonstrations at Kelly Air Force Base. At Lackland AFB, members received a briefing and tour of the U.S. Air Force's Officer Training School. Overall, this was an activity-packed and rewarding two days.

The National Security Commission met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission.

One of the featured speakers included General Maxwell Thurman, Commanding General of the United States Training and Doctrine Command, who addressed the status of training, training development, and doctrine in the United States Army. The Honorable Gaston Sigur, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, provided an overview of Asian Pacific security concerns to include the political situation in the Republic of Korea.

Generals Larry Welch and Carl Vuono, Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and Army, respectively, addressed delegates before the entire Convention. Both made references to leadership, training and modernization challenges facing their respective Services in the year ahead.

National Executive Committee, October 14-15, 1987

An executive section of the National Security Commission met in Room 216 of the Indiana Department Headquarters on October 12-13, 1987 to consider resolutions properly before it and to conduct other business. In the absence of Chairman Roger Munson, Vice Chairman George Harvey presided.

Twenty-six resolutions were considered during this meeting. Three were recommended for approval. One dealt with the issue of a recent revision to the law which governs the assignment of military officers. The Defense Department may be hampered in its ability to properly assign officers to meet critical needs if the law is not amended. Two other resolutions dealt with The American Legion energy program.

The National Security Commission welcomes the opportunity to deal with energy issues.

Vice Chairman Harvey informed the Committee that "the National Legislative Commission recently mailed a 'Legislative Alert' to selected members of The American Legion. The Alert points out that the defense budget may take a $6-12 billion cut due to the provisions of the newly reactivated Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget cutting law. As you know, The American Legion supports a defense budget based on the threat to our national security and the need to provide modern equipment to our men and women in uniform. The decisions are being made in our Nation's Capitol at this moment. It is important that each of us contacts our representative in Congress to express our concern about the proposed cuts in the defense budget. We cannot afford to let it happen."

Washington Conference

The National Security Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, February 29 and Wednesday, March 2, 1989. Subjects covered during each session follow.

Morning Session, February 29.

The National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission met in Joint session. Mr. Morris Busby, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, described the Guatemala City II Peace Plan as a "basic deal" or "fundamental swap" in the region and pointed out that the Sandinistas, in accepting its provisions, agreed to become a pluralistic society and to allow Nicaraguans to compete politically in a democratic system. He said there were two things that needed to be done if the U.S. is to continue to try and move the peace effort forward: A package of legislation which will allow the Nicaraguan Resistance to continue; and the U.S. must send a signal to the Sandinistas, and to all the governments of Central America, that we are in this for the long haul.

General Alfred M. Gray, Jr., Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, presented a comprehensive discussion of key personnel, readiness, equipment and training issues facing the Marine Corps and phase anticipated in the future. General Gray stressed that the Marine Corps was returning to the basic fundamental that every Marine regardless of specialty was to be trained and prepared for potential combat roles.

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead pointed out that great strides for democracy have occurred in the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South America, and Central America. He announced three principal foreign policy goals for 1988: To move ahead in the strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Un ion; to continue support for the growth of democracy in Central America; and to encourage negotiations between the Arabs and Israel is to achieve peace. Secretary Whitehead stressed that only 1.5 percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign affairs. Further cuts in that area could cause grave damage to U.S. national security. Additionally, congressional "micromanagement" of foreign affairs frequently restricts the Executive Branch's ability to conduct foreign policy effectively.

The National Security Commission attended the speech by President Reagan which was followed by the POW/MIA Open Forum. During the forum, Mr. Richard Childress, National Security Council staff, explained the U.S. Government's overall strategy on the Indochina POW/MIA issue. General Robert Kingston, USA (Ret.), reported on the mission to Hanoi last August by General John Vessey during which the Vietnamese promised to accelerate progress and cooperation.

Brigadier General James Shufelt, Defense intelligence Agency, explained intelligence collection and analysis efforts related to the POW/MIA issue. Dr. Karl Jackson of the Pentagon described the continuing efforts on POW/MIA issues from World war II and Korea. Representative Thomas Ridge reported on his mission to Hanoi in January in which he strongly informed the Vietnamese of the American people's determination to achieve progress on the issue. National Commander Albert Bland of the American Ex-POW's explained his organization's efforts to encourage more countries to sign the Geneva Convention on treatment of POW's so that in future wars prisoners would be humanely treated according to civilized standards.

Morning Session, March 2.

Following a brief morning business session, the National Security Commission met in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission. Lieutenant General Herbert Temple, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, addressed the increasing national security role of the Army and Air Force National Guard in the total Force and how various aspects of total Force policy are being tested. This was especially true with regard to National Guard training missions in Honduras and Panama which evoked the dissent of several State Governors. The resultant "Montgomery Amendment" still requires the Governor's approval of training missions, but limits the rationale for disapproval to legitimate State emergencies.

Ambassador Kenneth Adelman, former Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, presented arguments in favor of ratification of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. He said the treaty is based on a U.S. proposal of 1981, cuts more Soviet than American nuclear capability, contains unprecedented intrusive on-site inspection procedures, and represents several significant concessions by the Soviets. Looking to the future, he advocated caution in concluding a strategic arms reduction treaty. He emphasized the difficulties of arriving at acceptable force level sub-limits and verifications procedures.

National Executive Committee, May 4–5, 1988

An executive section of the National Security Commission met in meeting Room B of the Indianapolis Hilton to consider resolutions properly before them and to conduct other business. Chairman Roger Munson presided.

Resolution efforts included recommended action on four resolutions considered at the Washington Conference, and thirteen resolutions considered at this meeting. Of the total of seventeen resolutions considered, four were recommended for approval.

The National Security Commission considered nine resolutions on the subject of Acid Rain, and felt that the subject deserved more comprehensive treatment than was called for by any of the specific resolutions on Acid Rain. Consequently, the Commission recommended the adoption of a resolution entitled "Pollution Control Measures." The nine resolutions on Acid Rain were recommended to be received and recorded.

Chairman Munson's remarks follow:

> "The budget agreement reached last fall between the Congress and the Administration cut $33 billion from the Fiscal Year 1989 defense budget, and $200 billion from the five year defense plan. These cuts were not taken from unused appropriations or any defense surplus; the cuts will mean less steaming time for ships, fewer flying hours for pilots, fewer repair ports, less ammunition in the stockpile from training and for an emergency, and fewer deployment of troops, planes and tanks.
>
> "None of these cuts are being made because our enemies are getting weaker. Indeed the Soviets continue to show growing strength in their armed forces. Rather the cuts are being made in the name of the budget deficit. However, as the noted economist, Herb Stein, said recently—
>
> 'We have a choice between deferring the reduction of the budget deficit and deferring the strengthening of our defense forces are making the wrong choice. We are looking at the wrong deficit. The deficit in the federal budget cannot kill us. The deficit in our defense, the deficit of our forces relative to our needs and the strength of our enemy—can.'
>
> "Secretary of Defense, Frank Carlucci, says in the newest version of Soviet Military Power—'We will continue to watch while maintaining our vigilance.' My message to you is that if further cuts are made, watching is all we will be able to do.
>
> "Your National Security Commission thanks the National Executive Committee for your support of our programs."

National Security-Foreign Relations Division

Responsibility for the daily conduct of the extensive work of The American Legion in defense and foreign policy is assigned to the National Security-Foreign Relations Division located in the Washington, D.C. office. The staff of the division consists of: G. Michael Schlee, Director; James B. Hubbard, Deputy Director; Harry E.B. Sullivan, Deputy Director for Foreign Relations; Dennis M. Duggon, Assistant Director; Mrs. Denise Wilkins, Secretary to the Director; and Ms. Colleen Williams.

During the year, the combined Division has endeavored to not only fulfill its responsibility to implement the mandates and policies of The American Legion relating to national defense and foreign affairs, but to constantly expand and improve the ways and means of projecting our interest in these two important areas. The duties have consisted of answering correspondence and telephone inquiries; maintaining liaison with the Departments of Defense, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Transportation; the American Blood Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These contact related to a variety of matters, some of which involved members of the armed forces.

Liaison also is maintained with a host of military and quasi-military organizations with whom common goals are shared. Among these are: Reserve Officers Association; Air Force Association; Navy League and Association of the U.S. Army. Most importantly, the National Security-Foreign Relations Division provides a steady flow of information of defense matters to members of both commissions and the leader ship at all levels of our organization. Writing and delivering speeches, preparing reports and testimony, are also duties of the staff. Additionally, promotional material is prepared and distributed to support the five national programs in the national security field.

While continual use is made of all national publications, such as Advance, The American Legion Magazine and the American Legion News Service, the principal means for distribution of factual information and program support in the fields of national defense and foreign affairs is the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin. The 1,550 recipients of the Bulletin include: National Department officers; NECmen; Department Security and Foreign Relations chairmen; National and Committee leadership of the American Legion Auxiliary; National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions and Committees and many other interested Legionnaires. Excerpts from the numerous appearances of Legion representatives before the Committees of Congress are also featured in the Bulletin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports, received with grateful appreciation, were prepared under the leadership and guidance of the following Committee and Council chairmen: James E. Starr—Aerospace; Frank J. D'Amico—Defense Civil Preparedness; W. Dudley Robbins—Law and Order ; John W. Sumrall—Merchant Marine; Norbert G. Hormeyer—Military Affairs, David L. Gurney—National Security Council; and John J. Wrenn—Naval Affairs.

Aerospace Committee

James E. Starr, Minnesota, *Chairman*

During the past year, the Aerospace Committee continued its efforts to ensure that the United States does not become a second-rate power in modern air power or advanced aerospace technology. The authority for the Committee's efforts are the resolutions adopted at the 67th National Convention. These policies are listed in the Summary of Proceedings section of that report. The effort to implement these positions required both administrative and legislative activities.

Legislative Activities. Implementation of these policies necessitates frequent correspondence and testimony to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and House in coordination with our Legislative Division. In addition to correspondence, the principal appearance was before the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee. Resolutions on aerospace were presented to the subcommittee in its consideration of Fiscal Year 1989 defense appropriations. Of particular emphasis was adequate provision for operations and maintenance funding, the military health care system and several personnel issues.

Civil Air Patrol. Pursuant to Resolution 14, adopted by the Denver National Convention, appropriate certificates have been prepared for Departments to recognize the outstanding CAP squadrons in their states. All Department Adjutants have been notified of the availability of the certificates and many requests have been received during this reporting period.

Defense Civil Preparedness Committee

Frank J. D'Amico, New York, *Chairman*

The American Legion continues to advocate adequate staffing, adequate budgeting and adequate technical and research support for the federal emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In an era when Soviet civil defense efforts are far greater than those of the United States, it becomes imperative that planning for emergencies to include a nuclear exchange be enhanced.

Support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the civil defense program in general, stems from Resolution 165 passed by the 68th annual Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. The resolution calls for the public to be educated in the need for an adequate defense program by:

(1) Recognizing that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense program could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary;

(2) Giving increased funds, support and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) Taking advantage of the current over-abundance of grant by stocking/restocking shelters and warehouses with survival food and plan to rotate those stocks when responding to request for assistance to natural disasters around the world;

(4) Re-initiating public and private works programs that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection to include underground and in-mountain facilities;

(5) Supporting the President's revitalized civil defense program to improve our total defense facilities;

(6) Strongly supporting and aggressively pursuing additional funding by the Congress to broaden the Civil Defense Program with proper funding for increased warning systems and training programs for the communities across the nation.

Disaster Relief Understanding. The role of Posts and Units in disasters of all types is spelled out in the disaster Relief Understanding between The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the American National Red Cross, first established in 1926. The agreement, expanded to include the American Legion Auxiliary, was given a mass distribution to each Post and Unit. Presidents and Commanders alike are aware that this understanding is merely a collection of words until it is put into action in their communities. Once disaster strikes, it is too late to identify facilities, train members or integrate Posts and Units into the over-all disaster relief operation.

Under the agreement's broad framework, Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Red Cross Chapters can work out cooperative preparedness and relief plans best suited to their respective areas. It outlines the used of physical facilities and human resources of the Legion and the Auxiliary. The pact also spells out the details of fund raising and clothing collection with which the leadership of each Post and Unit should be familiar.

Blood Donor Activities. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply of blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members through a variety of programs continue to supply the blood needs of their own members, hospitalized veterans and through cooperative agreements, to patients in civilian hospitals. During 1986–87, a total of 363,848 pints of blood were donated by 56,140 American Legion donors. In this past year, the program has continued to grow.

National Commander Awards. To stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. In the period from July 1, 1987 through June 15, 1988, many Departments of The American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor program. The criteria for the National Commander's Awards for Post and individual participation was based on Resolution 14, adopted at the Spring meeting, May 8–9, 1985 of the National Executive Committee. The resolution provides that departments be placed in categories based on the size of the department, using criteria established by the Membership and Post Activities Committee. The winners for the 1987–88 Blood Donor program are:

Category I.—(more than 100,000 members)—Post and individual participation: Illinois.

Category II.—(70,000 to 99,999 members)—Post participation: Florida. Individual participation: Wisconsin.

Category III.—(40,000 to 69,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Nebraska.

Category IV.—(25,000 to 39,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Kentucky.

Category V.—(10,000 to 24,999 members)—Post and individual participation: Montana.

Category VI.—(less than 10,000 members)—Post and individual participation: Rhode Island.

National Commander's Award Citations are presented to Departments which achieve the highest percentage of post and individual participation in the program for the year. Each participating Department will receive a special letter of recognition signed by National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer.

Holiday Blood Drive.—During the 1988 Holiday Season, American Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary will be urged to give to a gift of life blood. For the past several Christmas seasons, demands for blood were exceptionally high while supplies were so critical that only emergency operations could be performed. Numerous Departments and Posts have actively publicized the "Holiday Blood Drive," noting that this was opportunity to establish closer ties with the community.

The edition of Advance featuring a four-page insert which contained complete instructions on how to go about setting up a blood program sponsored by American Legion posts in a community was again sent to all of the blood banks sponsored by the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross and the Council of Community Blood Centers. All of these blood banking facilities were notified of the interest of The American Legion in ensuring a safe, adequate supply of blood for the community.

Plans are in place to conduct a blood drive at the 70th National Convention of The American Legion in Louisville, Kentucky.

The American Blood Commission.—During this past year, the American Legion has continued its participation as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Blood Commission. Established in 1975, the American Blood Commission is comprised of national organizations whose goal is the implementation of the National Blood Policy. The current designated representative of the American Blood Commission is Deputy Director James B. Hubbard, who currently serves as Vice President of the ABC board.

The American Blood Commission has been particularly voluble in disseminating information an Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This disease and its effect an the blood supply will be carefully monitored.

Law and Order Committee

W. Dudley Robbins, North Carolina, *Chairman*

The Law and Order Committee continued this year to emphasize crime prevention by promoting the distribution of the Crime Prevention booklet across the nation. Liaison was maintained with the National Crime Prevention Coalition in order to keep the committee up-to-date on the latest developments in the field of crime prevention.

American Legion Departments, Posts and individual citizens have been overwhelmingly responsive to the Legion's Crime Prevention program. Requests for our booklet have come from state and local law enforcement officials; from senior citizen groups; from libraries; and from school children. This program is viable, ongoing and important to our national interest. The law and Order Committee will continue to promote our goals in this area.

Fire Protection/Prevention. The National Executive Committee authorized the beginning of on American Legion Fire Protection and Prevention program. An information booklet on this subject was published in the Spring of 1986, and was the basis of a slide show production distributed in 1988.

Youth programs. The American Legion, in its efforts to better educate our young people in regard to laws which govern our society, and the agencies which enforce those laws has developed several programs which feature law enforcement training. At least ten Departments, in cooperation with state law enforcement agencies, sponsored youth programs designed to acquaint the participants with methods of basic law enforcement. The young people actually spend time with state troopers, at the various police academies, learning about such diverse subjects as traffic law, police ethics, traffic control, unlawful drugs, court procedures and the responsibility of citizenship.

Our coloring poster, "Your Friend—the Policeman," continues to be a successful program. Well over 40,000 copies have been distributed to elementary school teachers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Merchant Marine Committee

John W. Sumrall, Mississippi, *Chairman*

Since its founding, The American Legion realized the importance of a strong American merchant marine and the indispensable role of this "fourth arm of defense." Today, the ever increasing dependence of the U.S. economy on raw materials from Third World counties and over seas areas demand renewed efforts to build up our merchant fleet.

The privately owned, deep-draft fleet of the U.S. merchant marine totaled 534 vessels with a carrying capacity of about 23 million deadweight tons (dwt) on January 1, 1988, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The total comprised 44 ocean-going ships and 90 Great Lakes vessels.

Compared with January 1, 1987 totals, the number of ships in the U.S. ocean-going fleet decreased by 25 vessels and the fleet's carrying capacity by approximately 293,625 deadweight tons.

As of January 1, 1988, there were no new large commercial ships under construction.

Retaining American merchant marine independence in supplying our economy and the added demands of military sealift, spurred this Committee's support for expanding our fourth arm of defense during the past year. Our effort to inform our membership, the general public and the Congress of our views were guided by resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the 68th National Convention.

Maritime Power.—Throughout our history, maritime power has been a key element in the growth and strength of America. Moreover, the new sealift demands of the United States Sealift Command makes the fourth arm of defense even more imperative in our strategic maintain free use of the seas in the face of the challenge presented by Soviet sea power in every corner of the world.

The changes in National Maritime Police now being implemented by the Reagan Administration have been noted. The Merchant Marine Committee intends to monitor these policy changes as they are implemented to ensure that the United States Merchant Marine is once again pre-eminent on the seas.

Military Affairs Committee

NORBERT G. HORMEYER, Iowa, *Chairman*

During the year, your Military Affairs Committee has directed its major efforts toward attaining and then maintaining a strong and modern United States armed forces, second to none in the word. We believe the times deserve no less. Our activities have been guided by the resolutions adopted by the 68th National Convention and subsequent National Executive Committee action. Wide dissemination was given these resolutions to Congressional, government, military and industry leaders to inform them of our mandates for supporting a strong and modern military force and Reserves. A bound volume of the resolutions was presented to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of staff of the Army, and to the Secretary of Defense.

Press Conference/Legislation Activities.—The staff has kept up-to-date by attending press conferences on various subjects of interest, including the press conference sponsored by the Atlantic Council on the draft, several Congressional press conferences, and American Enterprise institute sessions.

Through the Legislative Division, correspondence with Members of Congress and Congressional staff was initiated and followed through in other areas as follows: Armed Forces commissaries; military and pay allowances; and educational incentives for Active and Reserve forces. Additionally, testimony was presented before the Senate and House Defense Appropriations Subcommittees in support of needed weapons systems and overall modernization of the force.

Defense Appropriations Testimony

April 28, 1988

Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to appear before this subcommittee on behalf of the almost 3 million members of The American Legion. Our view of the defense of the United States is based on first-hand experience, much of it in combat. We know that the next war will be even more terrible than all of the previous wars due to the advances in technologies of the weapons systems in use throughout the world. We, perhaps more than any other citizens, fervently hope that there won't be a next war. In order to see this hope become a reality, it is absolutely necessary for us to hold the line on cuts from the funds appropriated for the defense of our nation.

Much has been done to hold down expenses in the name of cutting the federal budget deficit and perhaps some of the deficit reduction should come from defense. But, to paraphrase Herbert Stein, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, we can choose to defer deficit reduction or we can choose to defer the strengthening of the armed forces. A budget deficit will not put our national security at risk. A deficit in the strength of the armed forces will put our national security at risk.

We suggest, Mr. Chairman, that this nation cannot afford not to spend the money for on adequate armed force capable of deterring aggression and defending the interest of the United States and it allies. The world situation demands it. A strong economy will help a strong defense. A weak economy can be strengthened by defense spending. But a weak defense posture will most assuredly bring the downfall of either a strong or weak economy over the passing of time with the realization by our enemies that our armed forces are paper tigers. Right now our economy is strong, and our defense forces are the finest ever fielded according to the field commanders. We must keep them that way. Precipitous cuts from the defense budget will put us on the road to decline in power and influence.

There are several specific issues we would like to discuss today. First, we have some major concerns about operations and maintenance. The President's FY '89 budget calls for 2.4% in real growth in this vital account as opposed to the 4.8% decline appropriated lost year. In our view this growth is entirely justified. The maintenance backlog of equipment waiting to be repaired has been increasing for the past several years. This increase must be slowed. The $85.6 billion request will allow a decrease in the growth rate. In addition, the operations portion of this account must be maintained in order to keep up the pace in training. Quality training has a direct effect on the war fighting skills of the troops and on combat training. Training was reduced in FY '88 and in our view must be increased in FY '89 to ensure a ready fighting force.

Families of military members are a large part of the quality of life equation for military members. These families serve as a vital source of considerable strength. As such, military families make on important contribution to the readiness posture of the armed forces. Among the most important of all of the quality of life programs is health care and commissaries.

The primary responsibility of the military health care system is to be medically ready to meet all of the requirements for life saving health care in time of war. To accomplish this responsibility the armed services have proposed a budget of over $12 billion for medical support for troops and their dependents, and to operate 168 military hospitals and over 800 medical and dental clinics around the globe.

What concerns us the most is the protection that if a war started today, the armed forces would be short over 7000 physicians and 31,000 nurses. This gap must be corrected. It not only translates into an increased death rate among bottle casualties, but also into a degradation of medical care for dependents and retirees. that breaks an implied contract with those who serve and those who have served and their families. Already there has been an instance of refusal of military hospitals to fill civilian prescriptions due to funding shortfalls. This should not continue.

Mr. Chairman, the Office of Management and Budget seems to have a fixation on forcing the armed forces to "privatize" certain civilian type activities currently being operated by the armed forces for the benefit of the morale and welfare of the troops. Primary among these is the military commissary system. According to the commissary mission statement, "Commissaries are an institutional economic benefit in the form of nonpay compensation provided to military personnel and their dependents. They are a proven, efficient method of compensating military personnel. Commissaries sell groceries and household items at the lowest practical prices, in facilities comparable to commercial food outlets. The stores are operated to preserve and foster the significant value of the benefit to the economic and psychological well-being of the military community." Independent research indicates that active duty men and women and their families view the commissaries as the second most important benefit available to them and to eliminate this benefit would affect the morale and welfare of the men and women who serve in this nation's Armed Forces. Experience has shown that when the quality of a military person's life is eroded, the resultant shifts in morale are inevitably followed by a significant drop in readiness. Indeed, servicemen and women are no different than their civilian counterparts when it comes to career decisions, and they react just as negatively when real or perceived benefits are changed or eroded by inflation or neglect.

We note with considerable interest, Mr. Chairman, that the President's budget contains a 4.3% pay increase for the armed forces. would point out that pay comparability between the armed force and the civilian sectors still a goal, not a reality. This country must pay members of the military wages comparable to that earned in the civilian sector or suffer the consequences of recruiting and retention shortfalls. The late 1970's proved this point when an exodus of trained people left the Navy short 20,000 experienced petty officers, and in the words of the Army Chief of staff with a "hollow" army. The Secretary of Defense currently estimates that service men and women now draw wages approximately 11% below the comparable civilian sector. This gap must be closed or military people will once again "vote with their feet" and leave the armed forces.

Mr. Chairman, the last item we would bring to your attention this year is adequate funding for conventional forces. As you know, a treaty eliminating what has become known as intermediate-range nuclear missiles will shortly be ratified by the United States Senate. The removal of our Pershing II and ground launched cruise missiles from the hands of the NATO Commander leaves a hole in the deterrent which we strive to maintain in Europe. This gap must be filled by a modern, robust land force capable of executing the national military strategy of deterring aggression, or if that fails, bringing hostilities to termination on terms favorable to the US and our allies. We will be unable to do that if training, maintenance, and modernization become victims of the budget knife. We therefore urge this subcommittee to make its decisions on budget cuts very carefully.

Mr. Chairman, attached to this statement are relevant resolutions passed by successive national conventions of The American Legion. We would ask you to accept them in the spirit of their having been offered by concerned citizens who have seen what happens when foreign policy fails, or when some foreign power perceives that the United States is unwilling, or unready to defend its national interest. Thank you for this opportunity.

National Security Council

DAVID L. GURNEY, Florida, *Chairman*

The American Legion over the past year has continued to support the Selective Service System by applying the following principles:

(1) maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure;

(2) The re-establishment of a completely operational Selective Service System in compliance with existing law, including Presidential induction authority;

(3) Retention of the System even when on a standby basis, supported by an active state Selective Service headquarters with a state director in charge who is responsible for the operations for the state;

(4) A local board in a registrant's own community with the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system;

(5) training of a pool of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower mobilization procedures, and a Selective Service System as an independent agency;

(6) Congress implement a system of Universal Military Training that will require every able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 23 to serve a period of military training; and

(7) The President and Congress provide the necessary directory and budgetary support to the Selective Service System so the mandates of the military Selective Service Act are enforced so the Selective System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon.

Reserve Officers Training Corps Program.—The historic support for a strong and viable Reserve Officers' training Corps (ROTC) was reaffirmed by Resolution 367-76, adopted by our 59th National Convention, and Resolution 474 adopted by the 64th National Convention. We resolved to staunchly support both the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Junior ROTC as exemplifying strong links in the traditional role of the citizen soldier in this country and as one of the most outstanding programs for producing military officers and future leaders of our nation. We also strongly recommend that all college and university students take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for training, leadership and achievement which the ROTC represents.

Departments having ROTC units supported ROTC programs by either awarding or encouraging Posts under their jurisdiction to award and participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medal program. Response to this program has been outstanding. During the period from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988, Departments and Posts purchased over 5,800 medals for presentation to deserving Senior and Junior level ROTC candidates. Purchases of ROTC medals for presentation were made for ROTC units by 53 Departments which included the District of Columbia, and the Departments of Puerto Rico and France.

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy.—The National Executive Committee at their October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21, which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC program in their states during the year. The trophy honors the memory of Post National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest and participation in our nation's defense.

Criteria for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department giving the greatest degree of support to the ROTC programs to include the number of medals presented and Legion participation in award day ceremonies this year. This year's winner of the Paul H. Griffith Trophy is the Department of Minnesota.

Naval Affairs Committee

JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

Guided by resolutions adopted at the 68th and 69th National Conventions, the Naval Affairs Committee has worked to strengthen the U.S. Navy during the past year. We begin with the premise that sea lanes are the life lines of America, both in peacetime and war. Additionally, with the advent of President Reagan's election, the United States entered a period of more forceful diplomacy. The United States is no longer hesitant about sending powerful signals to aggressors that we will not stand idly by and watch while they conduct violent takeovers of legitimate governments, particularly when those takeovers are contrary to the national interests of the United States. This new diplomacy requires a more mobile, more flexible and more capable armed forces; in particular, an expanded United States Navy.

The Secretary of Defense is faced with the decision on how best to expand the strength of the Navy in a fairly rapid manner. Expansion means an increased number of combatant ships and the choices are relatively limited. The Navy can build new ships, a time consuming process, or it may opt to remove ships for the "mothball" fleet, a process that will take substantially less time than the new construction. suggested that both options be under taken simultaneously. In the short term, modernizing a leadership with updated communications, command and control equipment and modern weapons systems is the only reasonable option currently available until such time as new ships are built and deployed.

The United States Coast Guard has forced the some rising costs associated with inflation as the other services. The problem of funding has become so crucial in the Coast Guard that this service is barely able to perform its statutory mission and in some cases, has had to reduce some of its enforcement activities to stay within the funding limitations imposed by Congress. At the 68th National Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution calling for adequate financial support for the Coast Guard.

Adequate funding must be provided to the Navy for the continued development of its forces on and under the sea, and in the air, so that strong, modern, effective sea power can be effectively deployed with the forces of other services. The Naval Affairs Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward this goal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

DOUGLAS W. HENLEY, Maryland, *Chairman*

HUBERT R. DAGLEY II, Indiana, *Director*

The Public Relations Commission oversees and coordinates all activities and programs designed to publicize the work of The American Legion among members and non-members alike. The goal of the commission and its staff in Indianapolis and Washington, DC., is to properly position The American Legion before the media and public.

Staff Coordination

The Commission has continued to emphasize its role as a service arm of the organization by increasing cooperation with the program divisions of The American Legion in producing materials to publicize programs and activities. Since the last report, the Public Relations Division continued to work with the National Internal Relations Division at National Leadership Workshops.

In cooperation with the National Security Commission, a new audiovisual product entitled "Fire Prevention and Protection" was produced and distributed to American Legion Departments. A National Anthem trailer was produced for use by television stations during sign-on and sign-off. Other audiovisual productions in support of divisions included: a radio PSA package with messages on The Child Welfare Foundation, Voting in election '88 and Blood Donations.

Special Projects

In December 1987 and January 1988, working with The American Legion Magazine and Legislative Commissions, the Commission coordinated a "Call to Action" in support of Congressional consideration to provide financial and military aid to the freedom fighters in Central America. A special letter from the National Commander was prepared and mailed to all members of Congress outlining the position of The American Legion on the Central American issue and seeking support for continued financial and military support for the freedom fighters.

In March 1988, the Commission became involved in a "Legislative Alert" concerning the legislation to elevate the Administrator of the Veterans Administration to Cabinet level. A special package of information was prepared and mailed to key members of The American Legion. These leaders were asked to contact their representatives in Washington, D.C., and seek support for the legislation. Included in this action was an effort to stop an amendment which would attach the issue of Judicial Review to the legislation elevating the VA Administrator to Cabinet level. Through the efforts of The American Legion, the Senate Government Operations Committee removed the Judicial Review provision from the proposed legislation.

When a Housing and Urban Development bill, with an amendment seeking Judicial Review was being considered, the Commission, working with The American Legion Magazine and Legislative Commissions, again contacted key American Legion leadership asking them to contact their representatives voicing the Legion's non-support of the Judicial review amendment.

In May 1988, the Commission coordinated a special Memorial Day mailing entitled "Lest We Forget" to more than 17,000 Posts, Veterans Administration facilities and government leaders. This special Memorial Day mailing highlighted the sacrifices of Americans in defense of our freedom and called on all Americans to honor these men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to be remembered on Memorial Day.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was the focus of attention as the Commission prepared a special "Over The Top" ceremony for the 70th National Convention. The ceremony celebrated the raising of more than $1 million for the Foundation. Throughout the year, the Commission worked closely with the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission and The American Legion Magazine Commission to publicize the efforts of Legionnaires around the world as they worked toward the $1 million goal.

Communication Efforts

The American Legion News Service (ALNS) continued to be mailed to more than 17,000 Posts, VA hospitals and Regional Offices, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and Governors. The ALNS allows wide distribution of American Legion news and photos in a timely manner. Other communication tools include ADVANCE, a 32,000 circulation of "how-to" tips for American Legion Post Commanders and Adjutants, and the National Adjutant's Newsletter distributed bimonthly to the leadership of The American Legion.

Awards

The 1988 National Commander's Public Relations Award was presented to La Prensa. La Prensa, a Nicaraguan newspaper, was selected for its efforts to publish the truth in war-torn Nicaragua.

Billy Cox received the organization's 1988 Fourth Estate Award for excellence in journalism. Cox, a reporter for Florida Today, was honored for his series entitled "Atomic Vets," which dealt with the plight of America's veterans of atomic testing.

During this past year the Commission developed the Annual Public Relations Awards Program to recognize commercial media organizations in each Department for their contributions to the public understanding of the goals and objectives of The American Legion. Awards will be presented based on nominees in four categories, Daily Newspaper, Weekly Newspaper, Radio Stations and Television Station. The program seeks nominations in each category from the Department and in turn the Commission will make the presentation to one of the nominees. All Department nominees will automatically receive a Certificate naming them as the "State" "Organization" of the year.

Additional Support

Timely and effective speaker support for the National Commander and other American Legion officers continues to be a major endeavor for the Public Relations staff. At the same time, suggested speeches for patriotic holidays and other special days, along with specially prepared holiday artwork and cooperative advertising slicks continue to be made available to all Legion members.

Challenges

The 1987-88 Legion year was filled with challenges and opportunities to inform Legionnaires and their fellow citizens about the programs of The American Legion.

During the coming year the National Public Relations Commission will continue to coordinate special projects geared toward informing citizens and Legislators of the goals of the organization.

The challenge for the coming year will be to improve the means by which we inform the public about the programs of The American Legion, as the National Public Relations Commission looks to the future.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

Milford A. Forrester, South Carolina, *Chairman*

Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia, *Publisher/Editor-in-Chief*

For the second consecutive year, The American Legion Magazine achieved record advertising revenues in 1987—this year exceeding $5,200,000—and was ranked fourth out of all major magazines in the nation in Writer's Digest's top 100 markets for non-fiction, freelance writers.

The advertising revenues were generated through a highly coordinated sales effort by the magazine's advertising department and its Publisher's Representatives, Fox Associates, Inc., which has offices located in six major cities across the nation.

Editorial Accomplishments

The editorial recognition resulted from a Writer's Digest survey of hundreds of magazine editors and writers who were queried about magazine policies and practices in 20 key areas. Areas of concern included fees paid to authors, turnaround time on queries, authors' involvement in the editing process, methods of revision, recognition afforded authors, completeness of writer's guidelines and editorial instructions, and the overall level of editorial-staff professionalism in dealing with authors in general.

We're proud of our achievement in this area because it confirms publicly the editorial standards The American Legion Magazine has long practiced. It also helps to explain why the magazine is able to attract first-class writers and experts month after month in order to provide our readers with a quality editorial product featuring not only substantive articles about current events, but also feature material that covers the gamut of human interest.

Several such noted experts were featured in our May issue, which was devoted almost exclusively to the strategic defense of America. Among them were: Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, Ambassador Edward Rowny; former Assistant Secretary of Defense, Richard N. Perle; and the country's leading proponent of SDI, Dr. Robert Jastrow.

We are also pleased to report that our widely acclaimed Constitution issue (September 1987) continues to generate high praise and requests for additional copies. In addition to our usual 2.5 million circulation, we distributed more than 25,000 extra copies to schools, other private institutions and collectors.

During the past year, the magazine has added several new editorial areas in response to reader requests. Among these that have already been introduced, and will be introduced this year are: a series on Medal of Honor recipients; a financial column titled "Money Sense"; and a series on the great battles of World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam titled "Battle Report."

Magazine Operations

In the operational area, the magazine experienced substantial increases in the cost of both body and cover paper during this past year totaling more than $700,000 on an annual basis, as well as a postal increase that added $65,000 to our annual expenses. Despite these escalations, the magazine's budget remains intact, and we expect to finish the year at or below budget, primarily due to our anticipation of a third successive year of record advertising revenues, this year expected to surpass $5.5 million.

In order to further bolster advertising revenues, the magazine began a series of trade-publication advertisements in June. These ads are aimed at increasing industry awareness of the value of The American Legion Magazine as an advertising medium. Moreover, they seek to create a market where none has previously existed, a unique veterans market.

Our research data indicates that veterans as a whole can be considered to be a unique vertical market in that they hunt and fish substantially more than the general population, they save and invest more, they travel more, they "Buy American," and they tend to be loyal, repeat customers for any business concern that provides value for each dollar spent. Should we succeed in proving this point to the advertising industry, advertising revenues will continue to reach record heights year after year.

The Year Ahead

The American Legion Magazine has been the main channel of communications between the national headquarters and Legionnaires around the world for the past seven decades. During this time, it has enjoyed a reputation for high quality content and dedication to traditional American values, as well as compassionate and adequate care for our nation's veterans, their families, their widows and orphans. Our goal this year is to seek innovative ways to make the magazine the best it has ever been.

Only in that state of forced change and innovative improvement can we hope to satisfy the demands of our membership and to fulfill the mandate of the National Executive Committees of 1922 and 1926, which directed that "The American Legion Magazine shall be built into an institution of public service, not alone for The American Legion, but for all Americans, which shall be one of the enduring monuments of this organization." We eagerly look forward to meeting that challenge.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

W.F. Lenker, South Dakota, *Chairman*

John F. Sommer, Jr., Ohio, *Director*

The Sixty-Ninth Annual National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and the Fall and Spring meetings of the National Executive Committee have approved programs expressed in resolutions submitted to those bodies through the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

The following report covers the activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff during the year ending June 30, 1988. The first section of the report describes the action taken on all resolutions assigned to the Commission for action and consideration, and the status shown as of June 30, 1988, the date of this report.

Beginning with the 1987 National Convention, the Commission received a total of 71 resolutions for appropriate action and consideration. There follows a breakdown of these resolutions by source and type:

57 from the 1987 National Convention
  17 approved resolutions
  40 referred resolutions

14 from the National Executive Committee
  4 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of October 14, 15, 1987 ("register resolutions")
  10 from the National Adjutant at the meeting of May 4, 5, 1988 ("register resolutions")

The status of the 71 resolutions as of the end of the report period is set forth below, beginning with those covering the 1987 National Convention, followed by those presented and referred by the National Executive Committee.

1987 NATIONAL CONVENTION APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Policy

Resolution No. 58 (Colorado).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, so as to make the Veterans Administration on Executive Department. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified on this measure before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987. The Director testified before the Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, House of Representatives on October 27, 1987. On December 9, 1987, the Director of the National Legislative Commission testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Resolution No. 194 (Wisconsin).—The American Legion Policy regarding Federal Social Security Programs. The Legislative Division was advised as to the subject of this resolution with the request that necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

Resolution No. 202 (Virginia).—Urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to amend 38 CFR 3.301(c)(2) thereby recognizing alcoholism as a disease. The Assistant Director testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in support of the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 204 (Virginia).—The American Legion Policy on exposure to ionizing radiation. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. The National Commander presented the Legion's position on this issue to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987. On May 20, 1988, Public Law 100-321 was signed into law which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 207 (Virginia).—Benefits for Canadian veterans residing in the United States. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987.

Resolution No. 299 (Iowa).—Urges the President, the Veterans Administration, and the Congress to reverse the reductions of personnel in the Department of Veterans Benefits to assure the continued delivery of service to veterans and their dependents. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified as to the Legion's concern in this matter before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987. The Director also testified on this subject before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 4, 1988. The Director subsequently appeared before the House Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies in this regard. The Assistant Director presented testimony on this issue to the House Veterans Affairs Committee on April 28, 1988 and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on June 9, 1988.

Medical and Hospitals

Resolution No. 135 (Ohio).—Amend 38 USC, so as to provide free medical and dental care for recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987.

Resolution No. 166 (Michigan).—Oppose any effort to provide that per diem subsidies paid by the VA for the care of veterans in State Homes shall not be used to offset payments made under the Medicaid program. The Legislative Division was advised of the subject of this resolution with the request that necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

Resolution No. 195 (Wisconsin).—Oppose Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery contracting-out of services deemed essential for delivery of integrated quality medical care to eligible veterans. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified on this issue before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987.

Resolution No. 203 (Virginia).—Continued American Legion opposition to Means Test and Third Party Reimbursement. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer expressed the Legion's position on this issue to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987.

Resolution No. 206 (Virginia).—The American Legion Policy on Beneficiary Travel. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on this issue on September 22, 1987. On May 20, 1988, Public Law 100–322 was signed into law which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 429 (Massachusetts).—Oppose closure of VA Outpatient Clinic, New Bedford, Massachusetts. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. The Director spoke on it before the House HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 131 (Ohio).—Support legislation to exempt Chapter 34 educational assistance benefits from future reductions under Public Law 99–177 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act). This resolution was submitted to the President on September 10, 1987.

Resolution No. 132 (Ohio).—Urge the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to revise the Eligibility Verification Report. Staff to work out with VA.

Resolution No. 133 (Ohio).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, section 312(o) to extend the presumptive period from one to seven years from the date of separation from active service for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis cases. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987.

Resolution No. 296 (Iowa).—Support legislation to amend section 411, 38 USC, so as to increase the monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified in support of this measure before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987. On March 4, 1988 the Director appeared before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on this matter. The Director subsequently testified on this issue before the House Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on April 28, 1988. The Assistant Director also testified in support of this measure before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on April 28, 1988 and subsequently before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Resolution No. 301 (Iowa).—Support legislation to amend section 314, 38 USC, so as to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation. This resolution was sent to the President on September 10, 1987. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer testified in support of this measure on September 22, 1987 before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. The Director also testified before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on this same issue on March 4, 1988. The Director subsequently testified on this subject before the House Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on April 28, 1988. The Assistant Director also appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on April 28, 1988 and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on June 9, 1988 concerning this subject.

1987 NATIONAL CONVENTION REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

Policy

Resolution No. 48 (Nebraska).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 106 (Illinois).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 112 (North Dakota).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 196 (Wisconsin).—Urges the Veterans Administration to adopt a uniform standard indicating proper names on government forms. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 265 (Minnesota).—Calls for Third Party Reimbursement receipts to be credited to VA. The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution, be rejected.

Resolution No. 266 (Minnesota).—Seeks improvement in the Hospital Based Home care Program outside 30 minute radius of VA medical centers. The National Executive Committee at its May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 336 (New York).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 352 (Missouri).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee at its October 1987 meeting recommended that this resolution be placed in a study status.

National Cemeteries

Resolution No. 130 (Ohio).—Seeks reimbursement of cost for headstone or marker purchased prior to death. The Assistant Director testified on June 9, 1988 before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in support of legislation on this subject which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 160 (Pennsylvania).—Seeks amendment to current policy regarding mandatory use of upright grave markers in certain cemeteries. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 208 (Colorado).—Support legislation to exempt certain National cemeteries from mandatory use of upright grave markers. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 408 (Texas).—Seeks to establish a National cemetery in Fannin County, Texas. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 409 (Texas).—Seeks to establish a National cemetery in the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 430 (Massachusetts).—Urge the Veterans Administration to make the exception to utilizing upright grave markers in the VA National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts. Legislation has been enacted which satisfies the intent of this resolution

Medical and Hospitals

Resolution No. 60 (Colorado).—Urges the return of the 1988 Veterans Administration National Winter Sports Clinic to Grand Junction, Colorado. the Veterans Administration advised that the 1988 Sports Clinic was scheduled for Grand Junction, Colorado which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 69 (Arizona).—Encourage Government research in the eradication of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer presented the Legion's views on this issue to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on September 22, 1987. The National Executive Committee at the October 1987 meeting adopted Resolution No. 5 on this subject. The Director subsequently testified on this issue before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on March 4, 1988 and the House Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on April 28, 1988 which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 77 (California).—Seeks support for the proper utilization of West Los Angeles Domiciliary land. Public Law 100-322 was enacted which prohibits the Administrator of Veterans Affairs from declaring the land at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center excess to the needs of the VA. This satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 143 (South Carolina).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend Public Law 89-614 that would entitle military retirees to medical care from VA medical facilities on a reimbursable basis for the services. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 171 (New Hampshire).—Petition the VA to institute a policy wherein VA security officers would be allowed to carry firearms. The National Executive Committee at the October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 172 (New Hampshire).—Urges the VA to improve various aspects concerning VA police salaries, clothing allowance, and retirement fund. The Assistant Director testified on this issue before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on May 19, 1988.

Resolution No. 215 (Arizona).—Seeks legislation to amend Public Law 99-272 to include in the Means Test application the consideration and allowance of unreimbursable medical expenses in the process. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 380 (District of Columbia).—Seeks legislation for funding for the establishment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Units at all suitable VA medical treatment facilities. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 407 (Texas).—Urges the VA to institute a program providing lodging facilities for kinship and/or guardianship of hospitalized veterans near medical centers under VA authority. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 410 (Texas).—Opposes the reduction of surgical services in the VA Medical Center in Big Spring, Texas. The National Executive Committee at its May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 412 (Georgia).—Urges VA to place into immediate effect mandatory testing for AIDS, or ARC, of all applicants seeking admission for VA medical care. The National Executive Committee at the October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 431 (California).—Urge the VA to establish full-time outpatient clinics, where needed, in communities more than 100 miles from the nearest VA medical center. The National Executive Committee at the October 1987 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (covered in existing VA policy).

Veterans Administration Hospitals

Resolution No. 150 (Montana).—Seeks the establishment of a VA Outpatient Clinic in Kalispell, Montana. At its meeting in May 1988, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 350 (Missouri).—Seeks to establish a VA Outpatient Clinic at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon, Missouri. The VA advised that this clinic has been activated which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 417 (California).—Seeks to establish a VA Outpatient Clinic in Redding, California. The VA advised that this clinic has been included in the Budget for FY 1989 which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Claims and Rating

Resolution No. 35 (South Dakota).—Support legislation to allow recipients of Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to receive housebound benefits if so required. The National Executive Committee at its May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 59 (Colorado).—Seeks retention of veterans benefit counselor position at Grand Junction, Colorado VAMC. The VA reply: Alternative means to a full-time position at the Bolder VAMC have been implemented to assure continued benefit information and service to the veterans residing in that area of the State. These include part-time personnel and increased telephone access.

Resolution No. 116 (North Dakota).—Seeks legislation that would allow certified copies of documents to be provided without cost when needed to support claims before the VA. The National Executive Committee at the May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 134 (Ohio).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, so as to provide an additional payment of $79 per month to each child receiving death compensation under certain conditions. At the May 1988 meeting of the National Executive Committee, the recommendation was approved that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Resolution No. 151 (Montana).—Amend Public Law 97-37 to allow the VA to recognize those internees that were in Russia and held against their will as former POWs. Public Law 100-322 was enacted which satisfies the intent of this resolution.

Resolution No. 263 (Minnesota).—Oppose policy of waived overpayment of VA benefits being taxed by IRS. The National Executive Committee at the May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

Resolution No. 276 (Idaho).—Support extending eligibility beyond December 31, 1989 for those veterans entitled to educational assistance under Chapter 34, 38 USC. The National Executive Committee at the May 1988 meeting approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

Resolution No. 372 (District of Columbia).—Support of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling Service. The Assistant Director testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on May 11, 1988 and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on June 16, 1988 on this subject.

Insurance

Resolution No. 115 (North Dakota).—Seeks legislation to increase the face value of service disabled insurance (RH) up to $50,000. This resolution remains in a study status.

Resolution No. 129 (Ohio).—Seeks to make National Service Life Insurance available to Vietnam veterans. This resolution remains in a study status

Resolution No. 145 (South Carolina).—Seeks legislation to automatically waive insurance premiums for 100% permanently disabled veterans. This resolution remains in a study status.

National Executive Committee Meeting, October 14-15, 1987

Register No. 2179 (Pennsylvania).—Support legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch." The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be rejected.

Register No. 2182 (Puerto Rico).—Seeks to eliminate the category of nonservice-connected veterans so as to treat all veterans with disabilities as one. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be rejected.

Register No. 2184 (Ohio).—Seeks dependency and indemnity compensation for beneficiaries upon the death of veterans who receive disability compensation. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be rejected.

Register No. 2185 (Ohio).—Seeks to establish a VA national cemetery in Massillon, Ohio. This register is being held in a study status.

National Executive Committee Meeting May 4-5, 1988

Register No. 2189 (Wisconsin).—Urges The American Legion to expedite the release of the Agent Orange portion of the Columbia University and American Legion Vietnam Veterans Study. The Director reported this section of the Columbia University and American Legion Vietnam Veterans Study had completed peer review and had been accepted by a scientific journal for publication.

Register No. 2196 (Pennsylvania).—Support legislation to increase the monthly rates of Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be received and recorded (covered in existing mandate).

Register No. 2197 (Pennsylvania).—Seeks legislation to expand the dates of the Vietnam Conflict for the purpose of VA benefits. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be rejected.

Register No. 2198 (Pennsylvania).—Seeks legislation to increase the income levels for death pension. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be received and recorded (covered by existing mandate).

Register No. 2199 (Pennsylvania).—Provide adequate funding for salaries of VA health-care professionals, and the operation of the health-care system. the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be received and recorded (covered by existing mandate).

Register No. 2200 (Pennsylvania).—Seeks legislation to increase the veterans' burial allowance. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be received and recorded (covered in existing mandate).

Register No. 2201 (Pennsylvania).—Support amendment of Medicaid laws and regulations regarding the garnishment of a veteran's income. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be rejected.

Register No. 2202 (Iowa).—Oppose GAO recommendation to reduce VA pension where the beneficiary is in a community nursing home under Medicaid. the National Executive Committee recommended that this register be placed in a study status.

Register No. 2204 (Texas).—Support establishment of a VA National cemetery in Northern Texas. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be held for further study.

Register No. 2205 (Texas).—Urges the VA to acquire on existing facility in Cleburne, Texas, for the purpose of providing health-care treatment to veterans. The National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this register be held for further study.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Meetings

Members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held three meetings during the period August 23, 1987 through May 4-5, 1988 as follows:

The VA&R Commission met on August 23, 1987 in Plaza Rooms A & B of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas. A report was subsequently made to the National Executive Committee relative to the Commission's meeting.

An 11 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the VA&R Commission met at National headquarters October 12-13, 1987, for the purpose of considering those matters which had previously been referred for study, and to discuss a broad range of other matters of a current nature. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 14, 1987.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met for the 65th consecutive year in Washington, DC, on March 2, 1988, in connection with the 28th Annual Washington Conference. The actions taken by the Commission during this meeting are contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the National Executive Committee of May 4-5, 1988, and also appear in the proceedings of that meeting.

A 9 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met on May 2-3, 1988, at National headquarters. Chairman W.F. Lenker (SD), and Vice Chairman Chester F. Stellir (OH) chaired the Subcommittee meeting. National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer visited with the Subcommittee members and encouraged those present to continue their efforts on behalf of the nation's veterans. A report of this meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on May 4, 1988.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For the ninth consecutive year, eight National Leadership Workshops were conducted throughout the months of September and October, 1987. The meetings were held in the following cities:

Region 1—Brunswick, ME, September 11-13.
Region 2—Richmond, VA, September 25-27.
Region 3—Orlando, FL, September 18-20.
Region 4—Jackson, MS, September 25-27.
Region 5—Indianapolis, IN, October 2-4.
Region 6—Forgo, ND, September 18-20.
Region 7—Las Vegas, NV, September 11-13.

Region 8—Boise, ID, October 2-4.

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary met jointly at each Saturday morning session to discuss mutual interests. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission attended the Conference in their respective regions. the Regional Chairmen were in attendance at all Conferences.

Staff members of the VA&R Commission were present at each Conference providing the Conferees with overviews of various topics relative to the VA&R program. Administrative developments with the Veterans Administration, and significant legislative matters emanating from the 1986 National Convention were also discussed.

During the Legion's afternoon session, VA Medical Administration Service Chiefs, from the local VA medical center, presented Conferees with statistics and information pertaining to eligibility for VA medical care (means Test) and beneficiary travel. Lengthy discussions ensued during time allotted for a Question and Answer session.

ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

The 65th National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference was held February 28 March 2, 1988, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. Participants included members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Service Officers and Rehabilitation Directors, County and Post Service Officers, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and various National, Department and Post officials.

Mr. William F. Lenker, Chairman, of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, and Vice Chairman Chester F. Stellar, presided in turn, at all sessions of the Conference. Addressing the Conference were National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer, Mrs. Pearl B. Behrend, President, American Legion Auxiliary and General Thomas K. Turnage, Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

During the Conference panel discussions were conducted that dealt with topics of vital concern to those in attendance. Subjects relating to the veterans benefit programs, medical care, memorial affairs, Board of Veterans Appeals discussions, and other pertinent matters were entertained.

Prior to the Conference, for the seventh year, the Chairman of the Commission and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff, met with Department Service Officers, for the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar. Topical Subjects covering the field of veterans affairs were discussed in a full day session.

Conference Recommendations

The members of your Recommendations Committee met on March 1, 1988. There was no business transacted as there were no recommendations to be considered from the 1987 National Leadership Workshops nor from the 1988 National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Over the past year, the staff of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has been very active in the area of legislation affecting benefits and programs of the Veterans Administration. Such activities have included the preparation and presentation of testimony at hearings scheduled before Congressional Committees, as well as drafting legislation pursuant to the mandates adopted by the National Convention and National Executive Committee. In addition, there has been continued liaison with the staff of the National Legislative Commission, officials of the Veterans Administration, staffs of Congressional Committees, and various members of Congress.

The following is a brief summary of the Congressional hearings held since July 1, 1987 relative to the proceedings and debates of Congress on matters pertaining to the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

(1) On July 1, 1987, the Assistant Director testified before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the operations of the Veterans Administration Department of Memorial Affairs and expressed the Legion's opposition to proposed restrictions on burial benefits.

(2) On August 6, 1987, the Assistant Director presented testimony to the Subcommittee on Education, Training, and Employment, Committee on Veterans Affairs,

House of Representatives, in support of a proposal to pay a death benefit to certain survivors of participants in the Montgomery GI Bill.

(3) On September 22, 1987, National Commander John P. Comer appeared before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees to present The American Legion's position on various issues concerning veterans benefits and the medical care program.

(4) On September 23, 1987, the Director testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, concerning legislation to improve the Veterans Administration quality assurance in its health-care program.

(5) On October 6, 1987, the Assistant Director presented testimony before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the operations of the Board of Veterans Appeals with particular respect to the quality and timeliness of appellate action.

(6) On October 27, 1987, the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, Committee on Governmental Operations, House of Representatives, in support of proposed legislation to establish the Veterans Administration as an Executive Department, pursuant to a longstanding Legion mandate.

(7) On December 9, 1987, the Director of the National Legislative Commission testified before the Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, in support of proposed legislation to establish the Veterans Administration as an Executive Department.

(8) On March 3, 1988, the Director provided testimony to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives on the Legion's position on proposed funding for the Veterans Administration for Fiscal year 1989.

(9) On March 4, 1988, the Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to present the Legion's position on proposed funding for the Veterans Administration for Fiscal year 1989.

(10) On March 16, 1988, the Assistant Director testified before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the status of the Veterans Administration Budget for Medical Construction.

(11) On March 17, 1988, the Assistant Director provided testimony before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, concerning the current operations of the CHAMPVA program: for dependents and survivors of certain service disabled veterans.

(12) On April 14, 1988, the Assistant Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, in support of proposed legislation to remove the current restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retirement pay concurrently with disability compensation from the Veterans Administration, pursuant to a longstanding Legion mandate.

(13) On April 28, 1988, the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, to present the Legion's views on appropriations for Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) for Fiscal year 1989.

(14) On April 28, 1988, the Assistant Director testified before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, in support of several legislative proposals to improve benefits payable by the Veterans Administration to veterans who died or were disabled in service to this nation, their dependents and survivors, and to certain nonservice-connected disability pension recipients. The three measures (H.R. 4216, H.R. 3722, and H.R. 2448) were addressed by current Legion mandates.

(15) On April 28, 1988, the Director of the National Legislative Commission presented to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee the Legion's position on increasing the $10 attorney fee limitation in veterans' benefit claims and judicial review of actions by the Veterans Administration in benefit claims, pursuant to the Legion mandate.

(16) On May 11, 1988, the Assistant Director provided testimony before the Subcommittee on Education, Training and Employment, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the current status of the Veterans Administration program of vocational rehabilitation.

(17) On May 12, 1988, the Director testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, concerning several legislative proposals to provide additional benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. The Director also expressed the Legion's concern with the lack of progress on several studies of the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange.

(18) On May 19, 1988, the Assistant Director testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, regarding the Hospital Security program of the Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery

(19) On May 25, 1988, the Assistant Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, concerning various legislative proposals affecting veterans' benefits and programs.

(20) On May 26, 1988, the Assistant Director provided testimony before the Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension and Insurance, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, on the operations of the Veterans Administration Department of Veterans Benefits, particularly with respect to the quality and timeliness of its processing and adjudication of veterans' benefit claims.

(21) On May 26, 1988, the Assistant Director testified before the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, regarding current operations of the National Cemetery System administered by the Veterans Administration Department of Memorial Affairs. (22) On June 28, 1988, the Director testified before the Subcommittee Hospitals and Health Care, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, to express the Legion's views and concerns with respect to the status, findings and interpretations of scientific research into the health of Vietnam veterans with particular emphasis on exposure to Agent Orange.

(23) On June 9, 1988, the Assistant Director presented testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on several legislative proposals to modify certain veterans' benefits. Several of these measures (H.R. 1805, H.R. 2267, and H.R. 2268) were addressed by Legion mandates.

(24) On June 16, 1988, the Assistant Director testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee with respect to a number of legislative proposals to improve veterans' benefit programs.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

During the year, through its informational services, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff endeavors to keep Legion officials and other parties fully informed of our program activities and functions. Preparation and distribution of various publications consumes considerable time and effort, and publications based on various topics are disseminated routinely.

Publications are sent to Department Service Officers, members of the Commission, and many others interested in the Legion's rehabilitation program. For the Calendar year 1987 a total of 52 Bulletins were issued. During the some time frame a total of 32 Memorandum letters were drafted and distributed. To date 36 Bulletins and 10 Memorandum letters have been distributed for 1988.

Special publications on particular subjects are printed and updated as the occasion arises, and the publication "We Want You To Know . . . And Receive" has gained national acclaim and widespread appeal by Department Service Officers. Supplies of this and other VA&R pamphlets are maintained for distribution as requested.

On an annual basis the staff revises The American Legion Post Service Officers Manual to reflect legislative and program changes. This publication has wide distribution. Sufficient copies are mailed to all Department headquarters to provide one copy for each Post within the Department. The Post Service Officers Manual is an indispensable research tool for Post Service Officers in providing services to veterans and their dependents.

Additional responsibilities cover the required revision of other publications, and include: The American Legion Voluntary Service Handbook; The Aging Veteran; The American Legion and National Health Insurance; Agent Orange—In Search of Answers; and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission program.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff endeavors to provide as much information as possible concerning our program to the various Divisions of the National Organization, Departments and individuals.

REPORT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Eight members of the National Cemetery Committee met in VA Central Office at 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., on March 1, 1988, in conjunction with the 65th National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference. Present were: Bob Legan (AR), Chairman; Roger Smith (OH), Vice Chairman; and members Charles Wilson (VA); Gil Moody (TX); Darrell Haskell (SD); Elton R. Adams (WA); Vernon K. Carstensen

(MN); and Roberto Gonzalez (PR). Also present were Past National Commander Joe Matthews (TX), and Curtis Smith (VA). staff liaison to the Committee was Rod Kirk.

The Committee received an extensive briefing by the Department of Memorial Affairs. Present at this briefing were Wilfred Ebel, Chief Memorial Affairs Director; Dean Holt; Patrick J. Gartland; Annabelle D. Stone; and Josephine Schuda. Mr. Edwin Arnold, Veterans Service Organization Liaison, was also present.

Mr. Ebel and Mr. Holt briefed the Committee on matters relative to the National Cemetery System including future expansions, recent legislative changes, policy changes, and the current and proposed budgets for the Department.

Initial discussions focused on Public Law 99-576, and specifically that section of the law that contained the requirement that VA revert completely back to utilizing upright grave markers, with noted exceptions. The Committee was informed that legislation has been proposed to exempt certain cemeteries from this requirement. This legislation is currently pending agreement between the House and Senate.

Exemptions to the upright marker requirement being sought include the new National cemetery planned for Northern California, the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Pennsylvania, the National Cemetery in Riverside, California, the new section of the Wood, Wisconsin cemetery adjacent to the medical center, the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Michigan, and the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona, which may be transferred to VA as a result of this pending legislation.

Ms. Stone briefed the Committee pertaining to the continuing resolution for FY 1988 which provides funding to conduct Environmental Impact Statements for four new national cemeteries in Chicago, Cleveland, Seattle/Tacoma, and Albany, New York. An additional $6—8 million will be required for construction of these cemeteries upon completion of the Impact Statements.

Ms. Stone also discussed Public Law 100-180, which provides land transfers from the Army directly to VA to expand existing national cemeteries at Rock Island, Illinois, and Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. In addition, this law establishes a new National cemetery at Joliet, Illinois to serve the Chicago area, upon the assurance from the Army that all toxic waste has been removed. The report language provides that land transfer is contingent upon acceptance by VA as suitable in all respects for national cemetery use.

Mr. Gartland explained recent policy changes involving Errors of Fact on ordered monuments. As is known, previously the policy was that any errors on the ordered monuments caused by the applicant were replaced at a cost to the veterans' next-of-kin. Effective March 11, 1987, all Government monuments containing incorrect data are replaced at Government expense.

Another policy change, effective July 27, 1987, explained by Mr. Gartland, allows more than one Branch of Service to be inscribed on Government monuments at Government expense, if space is available.

Mr. Gartland also shared a draft copy of the revised VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Monument. One of the most important additions to this form pertains to Valor Awards, and their recognition on Government monuments. In the past, the Congressional Medal of Honor Award has received special recognition on a veteran's monument. A facsimile of the Congressional Medal of Honor was inscribed on the monument as are the words *Medal of Honor*. Currently, certain other valor awards will receive special recognition on Government markers, when requested, space permitting. the additional valor awards that may now be shown at Government expense are: Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, the Silver Star, and Purple Heart Awards.

The Committee was informed that on May 29, 1988, a new national cemetery in Bushnell, Florida will be dedicated. This 400 acre site will be the 112th VA national cemetery.

Discussions ensued concerning the State Cemetery Grant program. Mr. Holt informed Committee members that FY 1989 appropriations identify $9 million for this program. These funds will address those requests VA's Department of Memorial Affairs currently has on hand which total in excess of $5 million.

Chairman Legan and members reiterated the Legion's mandates concerning burial benefits and plot allowances. The American Legion as mandated, through Resolution No. 496, approved by Delegates to our 1986 National Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio, to seek the restoration of the former eligibility criteria for the burial allowance to all veterans who have served honorably in time of war or National emergency and to increase this burial allowance to $400.

In addition, a legislative initiative continuously being proposed by the Administration would amend section 903 of title 38, USC, thereby changing the eligibility criteria for the $150 plot allowance by making it similar to the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance. Resolution No. 366, adopted by Delegates to our 1986 National Convention mandates The American Legion to "oppose any legislative or administrative proposal that would amend the eligibility criteria of the plot allowance for veterans by making it consistent with the current eligibility requirements for burial allowance." Furthermore, through Resolution No. 497 from our 1986 National Convention, we are mandated to sponsor and support legislation to increase the present burial plot allowance for veterans from $150 to $250. As a result of this, H.R. 2450 was introduced during the 100th Congress on behalf of The American Legion.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

There has been no essential change in the activities of the Medical Consultants since the report of the previous year. The only change that has occurred has been that there has been on increase of one Appeals Representative in the Board of Veterans Appeals office. In addition to that there has been intermittent assistance by other members of The American Legion to decrease the backlog of cases. Both of these activities have increased the number of cases referred to the Medical Consultants. They have been handled without any major difficulty. A re-summation of the activities of the Medical Consultants is now made.

The Medical Consultants consist of two physicians, Dr. Thomas J. FitzGerald as the Senior Medical Consultant and Dr. Nikita Tregubov as the other Consultant. The primary duty assigned to the Medical Consultants is to act as a source of technical knowledge to the Appeals Representatives in The American Legion office at the Board of Veterans Appeals. The individual members refer case folders to the Medical Consultants for evaluation and advice as to the appropriate course to pursue in pleading the case. This may take place in the form of oral guidance or more frequently it will involve a written report to the Appeals Representative who referred the case. The written report would be summarized in person with the Representative to be sure that he is fully cognizant of the appropriate method to handle the case. Certain cases are medically or technically difficult for a non-physician to present and as such these cases are presented directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals by the Medical Consultants.

In addition to the actual consultative activities, the Medical Consultants are available for training sessions with the members of the Appeals Office and the Regional Office. This is frequently utilized in the training of new Field Representatives and claims Representatives.

In addition to the representation at the Board of Veterans Appeals, the American Legion maintains a staff of Representatives at the Regional Office in the Washington, DC area on North Capitol Street. They call upon the Medical Consultants to render the same type of service as has been described above for the Representatives at the Board of Veterans Appeals. This would involve a personal trip to the Regional Office to review case folders and to give written reports.

It has become evident to us that this source of technical knowledge would be of extreme value to the Service Officers of The American Legion in the field. As a result of this, we have offered and encouraged the Service Officers in the field to refer difficult cases to us or to call us to discuss a problem they might have. There has been an increased utilization of this over the past year. In personal meetings with the Service Officers at the various National meetings, they have expressed gratitude for this service and stated it has been of considerable help to them.

The Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has used the Medical Consultants in an advisory capacity for the conduct of his office. This can be in the form of policy with regard to the operation of the Veterans Administration hospital system, or it can be in an advisory capacity on legislative approaches and testimony before the legislative committees. Because of previous employment with the Veterans Administration and the knowledge of the agency, people, and facilities, the Director has called upon the Senior Medical Consultant to assist in the relationship with the Veterans Administration. Occasionally, alleged administrative problems within the Veterans Administration have been drawn to the attention of the Director and he calls upon us for the resolution of these problems. This may also be in the form of assisting in the placement of a veteran for medical care or to gain information concerning the medical care that the individual is receiving. the Senior Medical Consultant represents the Director at the monthly meetings with the Chief Medical Director along with other veterans service organizations to gain information concerning the recent operations and direction of the Department of Medicine and Surgery. These meetings allow The American Legion to express concern over the changes in the course of treatment being offered by the Department of

Medicine and Surgery or merely to gain knowledge concerning them. The Senior Medical Consultant is also a member of the VA Advisory Committee on Agent Orange and attends their scheduled meetings. the Representatives of The American Legion to the Department of Defense Review Board have also utilized the Medical Consultants in the pursuit of individual cases in which the veteran has sought the assistance of The American Legion.

The Field Representatives surveying the Veterans Administration hospitals have called upon the Medical Consultants for guidance prior to their visits to a station and for consultation concerning the situations that they have discovered during their visits for interpretation as to the proper course of action for The American Legion. This allows them to make their final report more meaningful to the Director of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Here again, the previous employment of the Senior Medical Consultant with the Veterans Administration and his personal knowledge of the individual hospitals has been of considerable help to these individuals.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

The United States Government, through the Veterans Administration directly, operates five life insurance programs for veterans of the WW I, WW II and Korean War periods, plus one for veterans with service-connected disabilities. These programs have approximately 3.6 million policies in force, with over $28.6 billion dollars in coverage, and dividend distributions to policyholders of $960.55 million for 1988 alone. These programs are administered under the heading of United States Government Life insurance for WW I veterans (USGLI) and National Service Life insurance (NSLI) for WW II, Korea, and service-connected disabled veterans.

During the past calendar year the VA insurance headquarters, located at the Philadelphia VA Center, has instituted several new items since the last report period. Interest charged to veterans who take out loans against their life insurance reserves has now been put on a variable basis effective November 2, 1987. The interest rate charged is reviewed annually each June and compared with that month's averaged yield on Treasury Securities of ten year maturities. As government life insurance reserves are invested in long-term Treasuries, and investment returns not needed for program expenses are returned to policyholders as dividends, on interest so derived impacts equitably on both borrowers and non-borrowers alike. Should the indicator show a change as warranted, this will be put into effect the following October and those with or applying for loans appropriately advised. In another area, payment of NSLI premiums through employer payroll deduction was terminated in February 1988 due to cast inefficiencies as only some 5,300 veterans were still paying premiums in such a manner. These veterans were advised to pay directly, or through deductions from VA benefits or military retired pay. All policyholders receiving VA disability compensation are being asked, in a mailing program begun in June 1987, to have their NSLI premiums paid by deductions from benefits. Over 23,000 insured have since responded positively, and 107,000 remain to be contacted.

Further changes in the NSLI area include a new regulation liberalizing reinstatement procedures for insured whose policies lapse for non-payment; an extension of the comparative health period to six months and use of a non-medical reinstatement application for those lapsed over six months, but less than one year, regardless of age. The Insurance Center has also requested increased benefits to policyholders and their beneficiaries from Congress in the VA insurance Amendments Act of 1988, to permit a discount of up to 7 ½% on premium costs for those insured who pay their premiums in advance, and to pay interest on life insurance settlements when such are delayed due to missing beneficiaries, temporarily contested claims, insurance center in-house delays, estate proceedings and so forth, thus benefiting the award recipient when payment is finally made. These legislative initiatives are still pending enactment.

To assist those effected by the NSLI and USGLI programs, the Philadelphia Center activated a toll-free phone number (1-800-422-8079) to facilitate service on routine inquiries and transactions; the unit is currently handling some 2,000 calls daily.

Lastly, the previously scheduled consolidation of the St. Paul Insurance Center into Philadelphia was canceled for an indefinite period by Congressional action.

The Veterans Administration, through the Philadelphia Center, also supervises the operation of three other life insurance programs (Servicemen's and Veterans Group Life Insurance for active duty, reservist and recently released veterans, and Veterans Mortgage Life insurance for certain disabled veteran homeowners) that insure approximately 3.9 million with over $186 billion of coverage in force.

VA INSURANCE CENTERS—PHILADELPHIA, PA AND ST. PAUL, MN

The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission staff at Philadelphia consists of a Chief of Insurance Activities, one Insurance Representative, a secretary and two stenographers. An associated office in St. Paul is composed of one supervisor/insurance Representative, one secretary and one stenographer.

The Chief of insurance Activities, the St. Paul Supervisor, and insurance Representative must have a thorough knowledge of Government Life insurance laws, regulations and procedures, and be able to analyze them in order to properly represent the veteran and his or her beneficiaries. The Director and other personnel are informed on policy matters, changes in VA administrative procedures and other related matters to include new legislation.

Daily operations involve a full spectrum of services: the actual representation of insured; the review of insurance case folders (also claims files when required) and supporting records for the purpose of furnishing reports to veterans, beneficiaries, accredited field Representatives and VA adjudicators; close liaison with Department Service Officers to ensure prompt and complete service, and the review, and where necessary the correction of VA actions both on cases involving claims (disability or death) and those involving any of a large variety of accounting/financial transactions taking place on both matured and active policies. General insurance information and guidance is provided to field Service Officers across the country, plus assistance in the preparation of insurance appeals and varied other services relating to life insurance programs. Coordination with VA executive personnel is included on both individual cases and policy matters as needed.

The annual work load reported by the Philadelphia and St. Paul offices reflects the extent of operations of The American Legion's service in the area of Government Life insurance. For the period of June 30, 1987 to June 30, 1988 the following combined activities were reported:

Letters received	6,035
Letters written	6,371
Claims, evidence and other	10,086
Submittals filed*	
Disability insurance claims	1,360
Death insurance claims	2,735
Insurance folders reviewed	6,995
In-force policy accounts reviewed	5,736
Telephone contacts	5,707
Personal contacts	5,736

*Includes policy transactions such as dividend, loan, and premium accounts, plan conversions, beneficiary changes and liability refunds, as well as disability and settlement claims, medical data, wills, estate documents, payment tracers if needed, basic data changes, general policy inquiries, and other matters.

SPECIAL CLAIMS SERVICE

During the reporting period, the Special Claims Service of the Board of Appeals Unit reviewed and disposed of 124 cases involving requests by Department Service Officers for advisory opinions regarding VA policy or procedures in appeals or requests for administrative review by VA Control Office.

We welcome this opportunity to be of direct service to the Department Service Officers in their efforts to be of maximum assistance to claimants.

CLAIMS SERVICE

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission provides assistance and representation to veterans, their dependents, and survivors in claims with the VA through a staff of 14 accredited Representatives. All Representatives are Vietnam Era Veterans. The Assistant Director for Operations is responsible for the overall operation of the three units of this service.

Within the Table of Organization, four claims Representative, one secretary, and one supervisor are assigned to assist claimants whose cases come under the jurisdiction of the Washington, DC VA Regional Office; six appeals Representatives, one secretary and one stenographer, and one supervisor are assigned to provide representation in cases coming before the Board of Veterans Appeals; and two Representatives and one supervisor serve as counsel in case coming before the Discharge Review Boards and Boards for the Correction of Military Records.

In providing this type of representation, the staff of the claims Service is fortunate to have available the services of two medical consultants and the Washington Office legal consultant. They provide invaluable assistance in complex medical and legal cases.

In addition to the daily activity of these accredited Representatives involving the preparation and presentation of claims and evidence, there are frequent meetings with supervisory and management personnel of the VA and other agencies to secure policy and procedural determination affecting the delivery of benefits to claimants. They also participate in regularly scheduled meetings with the VA and other service organization Representatives to discuss and exchange information and ideas concerning veterans benefits and services.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

This report reflects the activities of The American Legion Board of Appeals Unit for the period July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988. During these twelve months, the Appeals staff reviewed a total of 7,925 cases for presentation of Veterans Appeals of which 325 were scheduled personal hearings. This was on overall increase of 83 hearings from the preceding reporting period

Assisting in the review and presentation of complex medical cases were Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Senior Medical Consultant and Dr. Nikita Tregubov, Medical Consultant. During this period, 798 cases were referred by staff for their opinion. We wish to thank them for their assistance.

In action taken by the Board of Veterans Appeals for FY 1987, 4,521 cases were denied, 721 cases were allowed, and 1,355 cases were remanded bock to the Regional Office of jurisdiction for further development. Following the remand decision, 301 cases were allowed in the Field. For this period the allowance rate was 10.7 percent which was a decrease of .8 percent. The remand rate of 20.3 percent increased by 2.1 percent and the allowance rate of those cases allowed in the Field decreased by 2.2 percent to 20.8 percent.

VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS CLAIMS UNIT

The American Legion maintains a claims staff composed of one supervisor, four claims representatives, and one stenographer at the Washington, DC VA Regional Office, for the purpose of providing service assistance to veterans and their families whose claims come under the jurisdiction of this regional office. the areas served by this office include the District of Columbia, the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges, and the Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax. In addition to performing all of the some functions as any other regional office in the country, this particular regional office has exclusive jurisdiction in certain types of cases. These include any case in which the claimant resides outside of the United States, with the exception of Mexico which is served by the Houston VA regional Office and the Philippines which is served by the Manila VA regional Office.

In addition, there are the following categories of cases: all military service rendered prior to July 6, 1903; service in the Philippines Scouts and alleged recognized guerrillas where the claimant does not reside under the jurisdiction of the Manila VA regional Office; general law cases where entitling service was rendered prior to April 21, 1898; cases involving entitlement under a Special Act of Congress; residents of the U.S. Soldiers Home, Washington, DC; and entitlement to benefits based on service various Allied Forces.

In addition to providing direct service to veterans of the local area and overseas, this office with its unique and diversified workload is utilized as a training ground for all new accredited Representatives of the Claims Service.

For the reporting period of July 1, 1987, through June 30,1988, the staff of the Veterans and Dependents claims Unit reviewed 2,321 VA claims files. Formal hearings were conducted in 12 cases and 1,986 were submitted to the VA by memorandum. Evidence in support of claims was submitted in 1,103 cases. Congressional contacts numbered 9, personal contacts 453, telephone contacts 3,907 and dictation 2,009.

ARMED SERVICES REVIEW AND CORRECTION BOARDS

Statutory authority for the existence and operation of Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records is set forth in sections 1552, 1553, and 1554 of title 10, United States Code. During the period beginning July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988, staff Representatives of this Commission assigned to duties before these Department of Defense Boards afforded service and representation in 1,152 applications in the following types of claims: disability Retirement, Reserve Retirement pay, discharges under other than Honorable conditions and other corrections of Military, Naval, and Air Force service records. Of this number represented, 530 Formal Hearings were conducted.

The following is a breakdown of the actions taken by the separate Service Department Boards:

FISCAL YEAR 1987-1988

Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records

	Presented	Allowed	Pending Decisions
Department of Air Force	91	19	21
Department of Army	298	58	53
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	98	15	27
Total	487	92	101

Military and Naval Discharge Review Boards

	Presented	Allowed	Pending Decisions
Department of Air Force	93	23	32
Department of Army	289	52	58
Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard	283	34	29
Total	665	109	119
Combined Grand Total	1,152	201	220

STAFF WORKLOAD

Part of the overall activity of the various offices of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is reflected in the annual volume of correspondence. During this period, over 12,351 pieces of original correspondence were received which does not include copies of correspondence from the VA and Department of Defense to claimants in cases represented by the Washington and Field Offices. Correspondence received by the Veterans and Dependents claims Unit totalled 2,321 pieces and for the Field insurance Offices in Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN, it was in excess of 6,000. In response, the outgoing correspondence to the VA, claimants, service officers and others, exceeded 6,300 pieces.

The following combined workloads were reported by the offices of the claims and insurance Service: over 28,152 cases were reviewed and presented to the various Boards of the VA and Department of Defense; 14,212 claims or evidence was filed; and there were 7,184 personal contacts.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS SCHOOL

The National Commander continued to authorize the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission to conduct a three and one-half day training program for Department Service Officers of The American Legion.

The purpose of the Department Service Officers School is to provide current technical information on a wide variety of issues relative to the proper development and presentation of claims to the Veterans Administration. the program of instruction includes subjects such as the range of veterans benefits, claims processing, disability evaluations, rating procedures, development of appeals and advocacy skills. Instruction material is extracted from all of VA's technical literature, manuals and program guides.

The goal of this school of formal training is to improve proficiency of American Legion Service Officers in counseling and representing veterans, their dependents and survivors in application for veterans benefits. Additionally, one sub-goal is to provide attendees the ability to provide training to other Service Officers in their respective Departments.

The Department Service Officers School represents a major effort by the American Legion to develop the necessary number of trained Service Officers to carry on the VA&R program. The cooperation and participation of all Departments is highly visible and well received. The benefits of this effort will be experienced by all those veterans the Legion is pledged to assist.

All students who successfully complete this course receive a Certificate of Training from the Veterans Administration, signed by the Director of Compensation and Pension Service. All attendees, instructors, and staff agree that this effort is extremely helpful and successful, and will benefit all attendees and their constituency for years to come.

A third session of the Department Service Officers School was held in Indianapolis, July 22–25, 1987. The classroom sessions were conducted at the National Headquarters Building. This was the first session in Indianapolis and was well attended and well received. Eighty attendees participated in the program. The school format remained the same and the basic information was updated and new areas of interest introduced. This format allows for continuing education of the more experienced Department Service Officers and allow the new Service Officers the opportunity to gain immediate benefits from the school.

The fourth session of the Department Service Officers School was conducted in Rosslyn, Virginia. The training program was held during February 24–28, 1988, and was followed by the Annual Department Service Officers Seminar and the Mid-Winter Conference, held in Washington, DC.

Attendees included 75 participants from various Departments and fourteen members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation staff. Instructors were provided by the Veterans Administration's Compensation and Pension Service and staff of the VA&R Division.

FIELD SERVICE

Field Service activities are promulgated for the period of July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988. The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Field Service staff, is under the operational control of the Assistant Director for Operations (VA&R) and is composed of four Field Representative positions and one secretary. One Field Representative position has been vacant during this reporting period.

Field Service assignments are made on a cyclical basis, i.e., current rotations are accomplished on approximately a 36 month timeframe.

During the period July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1988, the Field Service staff made visitations to 40 veterans' medical facilities. These visitations are categorized as follows:

40—VAMCs (6 Two—Division)

During the above 40 visitations, 205 survey recommendations were forwarded to VA Central Office. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

Major Construction Projects:	
Replacement Hospitals, Domiciliaries, Patient Buildings and/or Clinical Additions	20
Nursing Home care Units (NHCU)	19
Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Units	1
Facility renovations for space, privacy and fire and safety	2
ICU Step-Down Unit	2
Facility Development Plan	2
Domiciliary	4
Regional Office Co-Location	1
Other: Research Buildings, Laundry Plants, Parking Garages, Warehouses, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning	28
Minor Construction Projects:	
Renovations of Service areas and renovations for program expansion	15
Other: Parking Lots, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	1
Automated Data Processing	3
Program Development:	
Establish Treatment Programs:	
Hospital Based Home Care	5
Unit Dose Distribution System	6
GRECC	1
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	1
Psychiatric Outpatient/Mental Hygiene	1

Clinic/Day Treatment	1
Alcohol Dependence Treatment Program/Detoxification/Drug program	3
Adult Day Care program	1
Cardiac Catheterization/Surgical program	3
National Liver Transplant program	1
Comprehensive Cancer Center	3
Lithotripsy	1
Mobile Van Outpatient program	2
Radiation Therapy	1
Nuclear Medicine	1
Other	9
Affiliations	1
Outpatient Clinics:	
New Construction, Renovations, Expansions	4
Equipment:	
CT Scanner	6
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	4
Replace Telephone System	4
ICU Monitoring Unit	1
Resource Allocation Methodologies	3
Beneficiary Travel	2
Special Pay Authorization:	
Nursing	7
Pharmacists	4
Radiology Technicians	3
Physical Therapists	2
Occupational Therapists	2
Security	2
Medical Clerks	4
MEDIPP Initiatives	10
Miscellaneous	32

The following issues will continue to be closely monitored during the next reporting cycle, July 1, 1988–June 30, 1989.

- Budget shortages
- VAMC bed closures
- Shortage of pharmacists and physical therapists
- Homeless Veterans program
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- Beneficiary Travel
- Means Test/Third Party Reimbursement
- Resource Allocation Methodology
- MEDIPP
- New VA Nursing Home construction
- Major/Minor construction initiatives
- Decentralized Hospital Computer program
- Quality Assurance reviews
- VA/DoD Sharing agreements
- VAMC patient smoking policies
- VA Security Service turnover rates
- Status of Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers
- Status of VAMC Special Salary rates

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The 41st National Advisory Committee Meeting of the Veterans Administration Voluntary Service was held in Clearwater Beach, Florida during the period October 22–25, 1987.

One of the highlights of the program was the presentation of the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, during a luncheon held for that purpose. The recipient of the $5,000 scholarship was Katitt Laws.

The American Legion's Representative on the National Advisory Committee is the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission who serves as National VAVS Representative.

During the meeting special workshops were held for those present, all of which provided ideas and insight into the role of volunteering. Presentations were made by the Chief Medical Director, who discussed the progress that is being made by the

Veterans Administration in the treatment of AIDS, the nurse shortage in some VA medical centers and steps that are being taken in on attempt to alleviate this problem.

The Director of the Department of Medicine and Surgery's Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service described the efforts that are being carried out by the Veterans Administration to assist chronically mentally ill homeless veterans. During the closing session of the meeting it was determined that since the James H. Parke Memorial Fund is in excess of $100,000, a separate Board should be established to manage and oversee the fund. In addition, it was determined that the Treasurer of the fund should be bonded.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman W.F. Lenker (South Dakota) continues to view the hospital volunteers program as a priority issue, and makes every effort to encourage more and more Legionnaires to join the volunteer ranks.

The American Legion is continuing to experience growth in the number of regularly scheduled volunteers who carry out activities in the VA medical centers and other facilities, as well as the number of hours that they devote to this worthwhile endeavor.

ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

In accepting VA Form 23-22, Power of Attorney, designating The American Legion as the Accredited Representative, it becomes the duty of this organization to assist veterans, their surviving spouses, and other dependents in obtaining Federal benefits to which they may be entitled under existing law. the American Legion, as a Congressionally chartered veterans service organization, conducts this service program through the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. Therefore, formal representation in veteran claims before the Veterans Administration is provided by the Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. These Representatives have been recommended for accreditation by their respective Departments because of their knowledge, experience and expertise in the field of Federal benefit programs, and especially those benefits administered by the Veterans Administration and Armed Forces.

To become on Accredited Representative, a formal application is made by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant on Form 2-21 to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, 1608 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006. The Director, as National Certifying official, or the Assistant Director for Information Management as Alternate National Certifying official, after officially certifying the form will forward it to the general Counsel of the Veterans Administration for action. The form should never be sent directly to the general Counsel as he cannot grant accreditation without first receiving approval from the National certifying official of the organization which the individual will represent. If approved by the general Counsel, the individual is recognized as on Accredited Representative of this organization and will receive official notification of this action from the Veterans Administration. The accreditation will remain in effect until such time as the Director, based on written notification from Department officials, as to death, retirement, or resignation, notifies the general Counsel that the accreditation should be canceled.

Additions and cancellations to the rolls are reported in a monthly Information Bulletin published by the general Counsel's office. During the reporting period, 91 requests for accreditation and 62 requests for cancellation of accreditation were received and submitted to the VA for the necessary action. As of June 30, 1988, there are 937 Accredited Representatives of The American Legion. Any questions as to proper procedure, or regulations pertaining to the accreditation of individuals or their activities, should be directed to the Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in the Washington office.

DISTRIBUTION OF VA RELEASES

To ensure that employees of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission are kept advised and informed of changes in the laws and regulations pertaining to veterans' programs, the Administrative section of the Director's office maintains a reference library, and distributes copies of new and revised VA regulations, information bulletins, as well as other publications of interest to all employees. Special requests from the field for a particular VA publication con be submitted to the Director's office and on effort will be made to obtain the publication from the VA's Control Office Supply Depot, if available. However, on initial request should be made through the local Publication Officer located at the nearest VA installation to your office or home.

Distribution of important VA releases that are received in bulk in this office, and not necessarily distributed through the local Publication Officer, are sent to Department Service Officers and members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission in the field. When important VA decisions, new laws, or changes in present regulations are received, this information is reported immediately by means of Rehabilitation Bulletins or Memorandums to the field. It must also be remembered that because of continuing efforts to effect cost savings, the number of copies of each item forwarded to service organizations has been cut. If necessary, and no further printing of a specific item is planned, we will attempt to reproduce the item. Size and the number of pages will, of course, determine whether or not this reproduction may be accomplished.

PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

During the reporting period, July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988, there were a number of changes in the staff roster due to retirements, resignations and transfers in the Washington office. Robert E. Lyngh, Director, VA&R Division retired after 32 years of service with The American Legion. Richard Bazrnes, Discharge Review Board Representative retired after 23 years of service and Frank Dodson, Appeals Representative, retired after 17 years of service. Resignations included Rodney S. Kirk, Assistant Director, and Secretaries Toni Pollard, Lori Watson and JoAnne Price. Michael Dugan, Field Service Representative, transferred to the National Security and Foreign Relations Division as the Assistant Director.

We are continuing our program of rotating Claims Representatives to our other units within the Claims Service, such as the Board of Veterans Appeals and Discharge Review and Correction Boards for indoctrination and experience in all phases of claims work. Also during this reporting, a third American Legion Department Service Officers School was conducted in Washington, DC and a fourth in Indianapolis, Indiana to provide Legion Service Officers further technical training.

As of June 1988, the table of organization of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation is as follows:

Washington Office:	
Director	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Subtotal	2
Deputy Director	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Program—	
Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for—	
Information Management	1
Secretary	1
Assistant Director for Operations	1
Secretary	2
Field Representatives	5
Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents—	
Claims Unit	1
Claims Representatives	4
Secretary	1
Supervisor, Board of Veterans—	
Appeals	1
Appeals Representatives	5
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Supervisor, Discharge Review and Correction Boards Unit	1
Review Board Representatives	2
Consultants:	
Medical Consultants	2
Medical secretary	1
Subtotal	34

Total Washington Office	36
Insurance Field Offices:	
Philadelphia:	
Chief, Insurance Activities	1
Insurance Representatives	2
Secretary	1
Stenographers	2
Subtotal	6
St. Paul:	
Supervisor, Insurance Activities	1
Secretary	1
Stenographer	1
Subtotal	3
Total staff:	
Washington Office	36
Field Offices	9
Total	45

STAFF FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

Robert E. Lyngh retired as Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission on January 1, 1988. Prior to his retirement, during this reporting period, Mr. Lyngh participated in a VA Leadership Conference and visited our Legion insurance Office in Philadelphia; the 2nd American Legion Membership Workshop in Indianapolis; 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, TX; National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Convention in Atlantic City, NJ; National Leadership Workshop in Orlando, FL; Fall NEC meetings; MBO Meetings in Indianapolis and the Egyptian Post Commander's Club Annual Jamboree in Marion, IL.

John F. Sommer, Jr., former VA&R Deputy Director, become VA&R Director on January 1, 1988. During this reporting period Mr. Sommer attended the 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, TX; National Leadership Workshops in Boise, ID, Fargo, ND and Indianapolis, IN; Fall NEC meetings; National Association of Veterans program Administrators Conference, and Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Seminar in Baltimore, MD; Post Service Officers Seminar in Iowa; MBO Meetings; Symposium on Long-term Care, New York; VA Leadership Conference and Legion insurance Office in Philadelphia; Service Officers Conference in West Virginia; Spring NEC meetings; and Service Officers School in Jekyll Island, GA.

Harold T. Kelly, Assistant Director for Operations, made VAMC visitations in Providence, RI and New York, NY; attended 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, TX; National Leadership Workshops in Richmond, VA and Indianapolis, IN; Fall NEC meetings; Spring NEC meetings; and VA Chaplain Service Conference in Hampton, VA.

Philip R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for Information Management, during this reporting period, attended the 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, TX; Service Officers School in Higgins Lake, MI; National Leadership Workshops in Richmond, VA and Los Vegas, NV; and the Fall NEC meetings. Rodney S. Kirk, Assistant Director for program Management, during this reporting period attended the 1987 National Convention in San Antonio, TX; National Leadership Workshops in Brunswick, ME and Jackson, MS; VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting in Clearwater, FL; and the Spring NEC meetings.

Field Representatives made visitations to Veterans Administration medical centers in the following Departments: Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Montana, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Missouri, Delaware, Louisiana, Oregon, Florida, Arkansas, Colorado, Utah, Illinois, and Massachusetts.

Other staff members attending the National Convention in San Antonio with the Director, Deputy Director and three Assistant Directors, were Miss Sharon Mother, Mrs. Sylvia Soloz and Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Senior Medical Consultant. Also during this reporting period, the Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors and the claims staff attended the Department Service Officers School in Indianapolis.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Under authority of May 1958 NEC Resolution, we have continued the program of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to officials of the Veterans Administration, upon their retirement or resignation, "for services rendered and cooperation extended in connection with The American Legion's rehabilitation program." Under criteria established in line with the enabling resolution, nominations for the award are submitted by Department or National officials of The American Legion twice a year. The nominations are considered by a committee of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission at meetings preceding the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, and the National Convention. The Committee recommends to the Commission the names of those considered deserving of the Certificate.

Fourteen Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded during the period July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988, for on overall total of 972 since the program was initiated.

CITATIONS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This Citation, authorized by the National Executive Committee in May 1956, seeks to recognize the long and faithful service of Post Service Officers and others. Nominations for the Citation are submitted by Department officials to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director at any time; the Director, acting for the Chairman and members of the Commission, issues the award.

Eighty-three Citations "for meritorious service and loyal cooperation in the American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program" have been presented during the period July 1, 1987—June 30, 1988. Since this type of recognition and appreciation began, a total of 2,989 Citations for Meritorious Service have been presented.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION REPORT

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. BETTY CALDER, Utah, *Chairman*

American Legion Auxiliary members have "United in Service" as they have joined their efforts with American Legion members, Junior Auxiliary members, S.A.L. members, the Veterans Administration staff, friends and neighbors in their communities to serve all veterans in need.

VA&R leaders and volunteers were asked this year to emphasize and promote recruitment of volunteers, aiding the aging veterans and their families through the Hospice program, help the homeless and mentally ill veterans, recognize and give special attention to the women veterans and veterans legislation.

National Leadership Workshops were planned with the cooperation of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director John F. Sommer, Jr., the Washington Office staff and the Veterans Administration's Central Office.

All attendees of the VA&R Conference were asked to join the A.Y.E.? team (Are You Excited?). A.Y.E.? pins were distributed and did create excitement and enthusiasm in the VA&R program. This Chairman and the National Committee Members contend YOU must be excited to generate excitement about the program.

VA&R leaders were asked to sell our product (volunteering) to prospective volunteers. New programs have been instigated while existing successful programs were continued and expanded.

VA&R reports received from 49 Departments indicate 14,832 Hospital Programs were conducted with a total of 674,519 hospitalized veterans being served, expending $2,241,450 with an additional $2,194,854 being given through direct and indirect aid by Units and Departments and through various other activities not described and included on the VA&R Annul Report form.

Gift Shops are still being conducted in 1,364 facilities. With unemployment, illness and increase in homeless veterans and their families the American Legion Auxiliary did provide Christmas for 131,183 veterans with the cost of $870,232.

Thirteen Departments had 100% Units reporting. If all Departments would have 100% Units reporting, volunteer reports would probably show double the figures reported. It is disheartening to know Units are helping the disabled and needy veterans and do not report.

The National VA&R Committee, with our National President and National Vice President attended the 41st National VAVS meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida. American Legion Auxiliary volunteers from the Department of Florida attended and helped with registration and other duties. National VAVS Representative Hilda Davis was elected to serve as National Chairman for the 1988 National VAVS meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

It has been suggested that organizations should consider evaluating certification of local VAVS Representatives and Deputies. Many are getting older and need help or should be replaced with younger, qualified ladies. Louisiana reported appointing a new Representative who has had such on impact on the VAMC that regular scheduled volunteers have doubled in number.

In March of this year a survey was taken of VAVS Representatives to find out how many VA medical centers had Hospice Units within their facilities. One hundred sixty-eight Representatives responded showing 42 Units are already in operation and others have plans of sorting Hospice activities. The Annual VA&R Reports revealed there are 1,953 active VA&R volunteers participating in the VA Hospice Programs.

Many Units have provided food, clothing, furniture, transportation to clinics and doctor appointments, help in obtaining employment and legal advice to the homeless veterans.

New York reported six VA facilities were designated by the VA regional Offices as pilot study facilities to assist the homeless and mentally ill veterans. Two facilities opened their program in early 1988 as community based facilities and immediate assistance from Units brought cash donations, clothing, newspaper subscriptions and garden program tuition which totalled $4,210 in value.

Junior members have been active in making tray favors, comfort items, adopting veterans, visiting and entertaining. Although the Department of Alaska does not have a VA medical center the members made 286 lap robes with the help of Junior members. These lap robes have been sent to Alaska veterans in other States as they are hospitalized. These Junior members also made corsages and flower arrangements for hospital and rest home veterans. Their women veterans in rest homes are visited regularly and receive personal items when needed.

Contacting and assisting women veterans was a top priority this year. Reports indicated 10,475 women veterans were contacted. Department of Louisiana conducted a very successful program for women veterans. With the cooperation of the Department Public Relations Committee women veterans were invited to attend and "Honor Women Veterans program." Women veterans, 368 strong attended, some in uniform, one in a wheelchair, some wearing all their Medals were escorted by the local R.O.T.C. honor guard and each was presented, one by one. Radio and TV publicity with interviews were there to record the event. Following this program at the Mid-winter Conference a letter of thanks was sent with a membership application. The response has been very good.

Many Units are adopting women veterans, inviting them to join their Units, providing transportation for appointments, shaping trips and just plain visiting with them.

Department Annual Reports show 23,692 Home Service volunteers giving 836,678 hours and expending $397,036. One thousand two hundred and two (1,202) Home Service Volunteers were awarded a one time 50 hour pin.

Timber City Unit No. 133, Department of Oregon reported Home Service was conducted on a year-round basis with work being done each week. Auxiliary members, Legionnaires, Juniors and friends were invited to attend and help with items for hospitalized veterans. Work was mixed with fun as a pot luck luncheon was held on each work day. Some items made were quilts, hankies, ditty bogs, homemade dipped candy, crepe proper flowers for VA medical center wheelchair parade, knitted sweaters and stocking cops, cookies, and dinners for off-station luncheons. This Unit cooked for a women veterans luncheon held in May. Timber City, with a membership of 141 reported having 54 American Legion Auxiliary Home Service volunteers, 43 Junior volunteers and 6 Legionnaires giving 5,446 hours with on expenditure of $7,134.

It is very difficult to choose outstanding Units and Departments reports. each and everyone who participates in the VA&R Programs are outstanding. Our volunteers, hospital, field service and home service give of themselves every day of the year. American Legion Auxiliary members are there whenever the need arises and I commend all for the efforts and dedication given.

I say thank you for an exciting and productive VA&R year. The volunteers, Unit, District, Department and National VA&R Chairmen and Committee Members have truly given of themselves as they have brought "Unity with Purpose" to show their concern of those veterans in need.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

MRS. MARGARET MICKEY, Virginia, *Director*

Our hospital volunteers are to be commended for the many hours of service given to the hospitalized veterans this post year.

The duties performed by these caring volunteers were many and varied. They manned information and admission desks; helped patients make diet selections; worked in libraries, pharmacies, chaplains' offices; performed escort services, wrote and mailed letters and packages; assisted in Hospice Units. All of these services relieved hospital personnel, enabling them to spend more time in performing nursing duties, thus assuring our veterans the best of core.

Volunteers spent many hours issuing supplies and supervising Happy Workshops. Participating veterans received monetary compensation for their efforts, as well as snacks while they were working and a celebratory luncheon upon completion of the program.

Christmas Gift Shops remain one of the most popular programs in our VAMCs. many hours were spent in the planning; volunteers shopped for gifts and supplies. Prior to the opening, patients were surveyed as to their needs. Gift cords were taken to the bedside of non-ambulatory patients. After selections were made, gifts were wrapped, togged and mailed.

A variety of recreational programs were sponsored; weekly and monthly bingo games; special holiday parties, cookouts; watermelon feasts; carnivals, just to name a few. Our volunteers appeared in a wide range of costumes for special parties—from witches to rabbits!

Volunteers actively participated in "Salute to Veterans Week." They cooperated with hospital staff and held special activities during the week.

Off-station programs included "Take a Veteran to Lunch"—to the restaurant of his choice; dinners and entertainment held at Post Homes; baseball and other athletic games and fishing trips.

Juniors were active participants. They made tray favors and special holiday cords, and assisted at word parties. Our young people are always welcomed. Their youthful and fresh approach never foils to evoke a positive response from the patients.

The volunteer corps of one hospital presents a handmade lap robe and a bag of personal items to every woman veteran upon admission. Women veterans also receive the services of volunteer hairdressers. What a "pick me up" that must be.

Many veterans have been able to participate in the Wheelchair Olympics thanks to the fund raising and sponsorship of our volunteers.

The response of the veterans to the Pet Corps program inaugurated in some hospitals has been overwhelming. It dispels the institutional environment for a while and lends them more of a home-like atmosphere.

Our point of emphasis was the recruitment of volunteers. I am happy to say that 1,165 new volunteers were recruited. Space does not permit a listing of the many thoughtful deeds performed by volunteers. A smile, holding a hand or just listening can mean so much, reading to or writing a letter for those who are unable. It all sounds so menial, but can mean so much.

All of the above does prove that our volunteers did indeed "Unite in Service," in serving our hospitalized veterans.

FIELD SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

MRS. GLADYS BASSETT, Mississippi, *Director*

"United in Service" was the call we met in Field Service. It was this UNITY with the purpose of helping meet the needs of our veterans in non-VA facilities, nursing homes, State Veterans Homes, day care centers—anywhere in the community where service could be provided a veteran—that kept Field Service volunteers excited this year!

So great is the need for volunteers in Field Service that Departments were once again urged to "get excited" by placing emphasis on recruitment and training of new volunteers. Records were updated, new volunteers found, and training undertaken at National and Department Workshops with 695 Field Service Orientation Courses held. The 4,407 new volunteers attending were given a growing knowledge of what the Field Service program responsibilities ore. many took refresher courses. This represented on increase hoped for in volunteers who would unite to meet the needs of veterans who were not a part of the VA system of care.

Volunteers were found among members of the Legion, S.A.L., non-affiliated individuals and our own Senior and Junior members. In the group would be veterans who cared enough to give unselfish service to their fellow veterans. In many cases, volunteering was a family affair.

The loving care of 21,212 volunteers was spent on 16,099 programs at the cost of $464,128.

Needs of 127,401 veterans, male and female, were met on special holidays with personal attention given on birthdays. Instructions were given on working with crafts. Parties were held with costumes being worn and skits produced and presented. Baskets of fruit and food were given on visits in the nursing homes, hospitals or to visits to the veterans in their homes. One Unit joined a food convoy to a veteran's home taking one hour just to unload the food denoted. Ditty bags, lap robes and bibs were made and distributed.

"Tender loving care" given included transportation to and from church, barber shops, shopping trips, sporting events, Legion and community activities, restaurants, and for medical treatment. Cookouts brightened days. Quilts were made to cheer up the appearance of hospital and nursing home rooms. Shower curtains and lifts were purchased.

Dressing and eating are simple details of life for some of us but volunteers visited nursing homes to help feed residents each day and provide other assistance to them in a reality therapy orientation group.

Fund raising provided hospital equipment for special rooms and recreational areas. In so many communities the American Legion Auxiliary provided the only outside support to patients and to the facilities.

Adopt-a-Veteran still meets the needs of veterans in many Departments. Junior members and S.A.L. bring cheer by adopting veterans as Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts, Pen Pals, etc. S.A.L. made cribbage Boards. Juniors posted crossword puzzles from the newspaper on cardboard and visited to distribute them.

The service of our volunteers touched the lives of veterans in 3,434 non-VA facilities in addition to meeting the needs of veterans in the community.

Recognition was given 228 volunteers serving 500 hours and 222 serving 1,000 hours. many others reached higher goals and have continued their service throughout the years.

My deepest appreciation to the Division Chairmen who did on outstanding job of keeping you well informed.

Success in Field Service for me has been measured by the reports I received telling the story of love and caring by the many volunteers and by the excitement and pleasure enjoyed by all in serving our veterans.

As one Chairman closed her report—"I hope all Units will get out and be there for our veterans before it is too late. A visit, a push in a wheelchair, a hand to hold, is the least we can do for our veterans."

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Hilda L. Davis, New York

Changes are taking place within the VA system, changes that challenge our VAVS Representatives and Deputies, and all volunteers.

Our VAMCs are opening their words to the homeless veterans providing them with food, shelter, clothing, rehabilitation and moral support. Programs to aid these veterans are being carried out by our VAVS Representatives. They are to be commended for their service to our veterans in need.

Another issue of great importance is the AIDS problem. The VA is aware that any disease is of great concern to our volunteers and the fear of AIDS as a primary concern because we know so little about this disease. Volunteers must follow the rules laid down by their VAMC pertaining to contact with all patients. Cleanliness and common sense must be used by volunteers when coming in contact with any patient suffering from AIDS. The VA has issued pamphlets dealing with the AIDS disease; these should be read by all hospital volunteers.

The VA also recognizes the importance of Hospice Units and 43 VAMCs have already started Hospice Programs in their facilities.

The Pet Therapy program has been introduced in many VAMCs and volunteers are needed for This program. It has been found that pet therapy helps patients to communicate better, to relax, and increases physical activity.

These new programs require more volunteers to help carry them out.

The 1987 National Leadership Workshops were well attended. Service Officers and Chiefs of Volunteers spoke at the VA&R sessions. Department VA&R Chairmen were given on opportunity to report on their program for the year. A Field Service Orientation Course was held at each regional Workshop and many members received their Field Service cord at that time.

A quiz pertaining to hospital volunteering was presented to the members and they had to find the answers in the "Guide for Volunteers." The members learned to use the guide to find answers to questions they may be asked by volunteers.

The annual meeting of the National VAVS organization was held in Clearwater Beach, Florida in October. Attending were National President Pearl Behrend, National Vice President Alice Galka, National VA&R Chairman Betty Calder, National Hospital Volunteers Director Margaret Mackey, National Field Service Director Gladys Bassett, and National VAVS Representative.

Four workshops were held: Volunteer's Role in Caring for the Older Veteran, Responsibility of VA leaders, Youth Volunteer Programs, and The many Faces of a Dollar.

Winner of the James H. Parke Scholarship Award, Kottti laws, was presented with a check for $5,000.

Three recommendations were accepted—that: the VA increase media coverage; the ADP system at the VAMC concerning change of address, etc., be improved; and a Public Relations handbook be developed to assist in recruitment.

Hilda Davis, American Legion Auxiliary National VAVS Representative was appointed Chairman of the 1988 National VAVS Executive Committee. In March I attended and chaired the Executive meeting in Washington.

The 1988 National meeting will be held in Albuquerque in October.

May "Unity with Purpose" continue to aid our hospitalized veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. H.B. "PEARL" BEHREND, *National President*

The spirit of giving and volunteerism, once again, distinguished the American Legion Auxiliary in its 68th year as the 950,000 members continued to provide aid to veterans and their families, children, and charitable organizations.

Auxiliary members raised and/or expended more than $20 million and spent 6 million hours volunteering their time and talents to provide assistance to persons and organizations across the nation and around the world.

Veterans and their families have remained the primary focus of the Auxiliary since its inception. This past administrative year, Auxiliary members spent more than 3 million hours aiding more than 800,000 veterans. The Auxiliary contributed $6.2 million to this program.

The Poppy program provided an income of $318,000 to 1,125 disabled veterans who made the crepe paper flowers distributed by Auxiliary members primarily on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Donations received for the poppy, which are used to benefit veterans and their families, totalled $2 million.

Another popular program within the organization is Children and Youth. Direct assistance was provided to 950,000 children through more than 1.1 million volunteer hours and expenditures of $4.2 million.

A unique feature within the Auxiliary is the free rein given members to select areas of need within their own community for service projects. Members met the challenge by raising more than $3 million and donating 3.4 million hours of service. In addition to community-based projects, the women of the Auxiliary focused on the national program-hospice centers—and assisted with the establishment of 257 new hospice units. They devoted 140,000 hours and $86,000 to this special project.

A longstanding project is the sponsorship of Girls State programs in 49 states. High School juniors are selected for their leadership abilities, achievements, patriotism and academic standing to attend the sessions and learn more about local, county and state government. This program, which involved 20,000 young women, cost the Auxiliary over $4 million. Ninety-eight Girls State citizens were then selected to attend Girls Nation at Marymount University in Alexandria, Virginia, to study the federal government.

In addition to educating young women in the governmental system and the importance of democracy, the Auxiliary provided more than $1 million in scholarships to deserving students and sponsored 73 students at the Americanism Youth Conference at Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The Junior members of the Auxiliary, who are under the age of 18, spent many hours learning the philosophy of the organization and assisting with patriotic and service projects. This small portion of the membership spent 243,000 hours in voluntary service primarily to the veteran.

Auxiliary members distributed 76,604 flags to schools, children, newly-naturalized citizens, churches, libraries and other appropriate places. They promoted the patriotic pride of the Bicentennial of the Constitution celebration in a number of ways including parades, community gatherings, public service announcements, speech and essay contests and by providing educational materials to make students more aware of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The generosity of the members of the Auxiliary was evident in donations to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, USO, Special Olympics, health-related charities, safety programs, disaster relief and numerous other worthwhile charities.

Auxiliary members spent many hours writing local, state and federal elected officials. More than 30,000 letters were written during the 1988–1989 administrative year. The women also were active and vocal in encouraging their U.S. Representatives and Senators to promote aid to the Contra Freedom Fighters, which was a focus of the Legislative program this past year.

A subsidiary organization of the Auxiliary, the Eight and Forty, was extremely busy contributing to its special project—fighting respiratory illnesses in children. Members of this organization contributed more than $52,000 in funds or equipment to the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine in Denver, Colorado. In addition, they contributed $22,070 for the purchase of special equipment at clinics and respiratory disease centers and $146,500 to charitable organizations involved with respiratory illnesses. On the local level, members raised almost $26,000 for special projects.

Auxiliary members worked hard this past year to support the ideals of democracy as embodied in the Constitution and to provide relief to those less fortunate.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Financial Statements
December 31, 1987
With Supplementary Information

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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GSO
GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Mr. John P. Comer, National Commander
The American Legion
  National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have examined the balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1987 and 1986 and the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1987. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters at December 31, 1987 and 1986 and the results of its operations, changes in its fund balances and changes in its cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1987, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 31, 1988

PRACTICE OFFICE LOCATIONS
INDIANAPOLIS FORT WAYNE MUNCIE
BLOOMINGTON HIGHLAND RICHMOND
EVANSVILLE MERRILLVILLE VALPARAISO

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN GROUP
OF CPA FIRMS WITH
OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL U.S. CITIES

MEMBER OF DUNWOODY ROBSON
McGLADREY & PULLEN
WITH OFFICES INTERNATIONALLY

Exhibit A

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	December 31 1987	 1986
CURRENT FUND:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 1,027,232	$ 738,747
Capitalized lease obligations--note 3	98,764	115,912
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales	159,862	175,974
Funds in transit to The American Legion Life Insurance Trust	793,855	698,449
Deferred dues income	12,169,143	12,557,333
Deferred income--direct membership solicitation	414,201	1,178,187
Deferred revenue enhancement income	815,907	33,448
Accrued vacation benefits	340,943	354,860
Provision for health insurance liability	44,984	40,000
Other liabilities	77,137	87,193
Total liabilities	15,942,028	15,980,103
Fund balances--notes 4 and 5:		
Restricted funds:		
Oratorical Contest Fund	150,849	161,669
Other restricted funds	(20,683)	54,920
Designated funds:		
The Restricted Fund	8,590,946	7,728,283
The Reserve Fund	2,170,661	2,169,343
	10,891,773	10,114,215
Appropriated funds	1,541,977	1,541,977
Unappropriated	11,565,334	11,348,735
Total fund balances	23,999,084	23,004,927
	39,941,112	38,985,030
NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS--note 6:		
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:		
Fund balance	697,897	652,661
	697,897	652,661
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:		
Fund balance	6,991,434	6,223,407
	6,991,434	6,223,407
	$ 47,630,443	$45,861,098

Exhibit B
Sheet 1

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and
Changes in Fund Balances
Current Fund

	Year Ended December 31 1987 Unappropriated	Year Ended December 31 1987 Appropriated Funds	Year Ended December 31 1987 Designated and Restricted Funds	Year Ended December 31 1987 Total Current Fund	1986 Total Current Fund
REVENUE:					
National dues	$ 15,573,694			$15,573,694	$14,878,899
Sales of Emblem items	5,216,177			5,216,177	5,251,737
Advertising revenue	5,141,562			5,141,562	3,639,380
Investment income	1,578,620		$ 730,766	2,309,386	2,555,178
Direct membership solicitation	2,050,336			2,050,336	1,208,667
Revenue enhancement	376,644			376,644	715,765
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income—note 7	369,256			369,256	444,015
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8	847,207		109,000	956,207	1,208,882
Other restricted income	237,746		54,933	292,679	287,508
Other income	1,092,451			1,092,451	662,474
	32,683,693		894,699	33,578,392	30,852,505
EXPENSES:					
Salaries	6,477,623			6,477,623	6,165,311
Employee benefits—note 9	683,448			683,448	651,460
Cost of sales	3,828,116			3,828,116	3,480,522
Direct publication expenses	8,991,127			8,991,127	8,105,292
Executive and staff travel	573,582			573,582	585,142
Commission and committee	1,211,572			1,211,572	911,495
Operational	4,579,213			4,579,213	3,864,779
Office	3,407,201			3,407,201	1,993,086
Occupancy	797,921			797,921	799,552
Special projects and programs	1,784,076		250,356	2,034,432	1,567,677
	32,333,879		250,356	32,584,235	28,124,316
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	349,814		644,343	994,157	2,728,189
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	11,348,735	$1,541,977	10,114,215	23,004,927	20,276,738
INTERFUND TRANSFERS—note 4	(133,215)		133,215	—	—
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	$ 11,565,334	$1,541,977	$10,891,773	$23,999,084	$23,004,927

See notes to financial statements.

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

Exhibit B
Sheet 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Designated and Restricted Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Designated Funds		Restricted Funds		Total Designated And Restricted Funds
	The Restricted Fund	The Reserve Fund	Oratorical Contest Fund	Other Restricted Funds	
REVENUE:					
Investment income	$ 729,448	$ 1,318			$ 730,766
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust--note 8			$ 109,000		109,000
Restricted contributions				$ 54,933	54,933
	729,448	1,318	109,000	54,933	894,699
EXPENSE:					
Special projects and programs			119,820	130,536	250,356
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	729,448	1,318	(10,820)	(75,603)	644,343
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	7,728,283	2,169,343	161,669	54,920	10,114,215
INTERFUND TRANSFERS--note 4	133,215				133,215
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	$8,590,946	$2,170,661	$ 150,849	$(20,683)	$10,891,773
					(Exhibit B Sheet 1)

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit C

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Cash Flows--
Increase (Decrease) in Cash
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Current Fund	Overseas Graves Decoration Trust	Paid-Up For Life Membership Fees	1987 Total	1986 Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:					
Excess of revenue over expenses	$ 994,157	$ 45,236	$ 768,027	$ 1,807,420	$ 3,577,846
Add: Depreciation charged to operations not requiring cash	204,111			204,111	206,802
Certain working capital transactions:					
Accounts receivable	(684,436)			(684,436)	(141,919)
Accrued interest on investments	56,930	(2,370)	(18,504)	36,056	156,999
Inventories	(332,174)			(332,174)	174,350
Prepaid expenses and supplies	(731,497)			(731,497)	(750,079)
Deferred expenses	689,395			689,395	(1,628,430)
Postal deposits	3,414			3,414	(1)
Accounts payable	288,485			288,485	(305,423)
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	(16,112)			(16,112)	(13,417)
Funds in transit to American Legion Life Insurance Trust	95,406			95,406	122,140
Deferred income	(369,717)			(369,717)	804,091
Accrued vacation	(13,917)			(13,917)	38,620
Provision for health insurance liability	4,984			4,984	(5,000)
Other liabilities	(10,056)			(10,056)	2,241
Cash provided by operations	178,973	42,866	749,523	971,362	2,238,820
Investing activities:					
Additions to property and equipment	(236,828)			(236,828)	(358,932)
Net (increase) in investments	(559,935)	(56,225)	(707,023)	(1,323,183)	(1,949,014)
	(796,763)	(56,225)	(707,023)	(1,560,011)	(2,307,946)
Financing activities:					
Principal payments under capital lease obligation	(17,148)			(17,148)	(8,118)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(634,938)	(13,359)	42,500	(604,797)	(77,244)
CASH, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	936,711	35,324	179,375	1,151,411	1,228,654
CASH, END OF THE YEAR	$ 301,773	$ 21,965	$ 221,875	$ 545,613	$ 1,151,410

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

General:

The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Basis of Presentation:

The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1986 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund and Statement of Cash Flows are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1987 amounts.

Accounts Receivable:

The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories:

Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments:

Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

Property and Equipment:
Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Depreciation expense amounted to $204,111 in 1987 and $206,802 in 1986.

Income:
Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recognized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and the American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan:
The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax:
The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 2--INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

	December 31			
	1987		1986	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Segregated for Designated Funds:				
U. S. Government obligations .	$ 8,320,503	$ 8,501,685	$ 8,619,467	$ 9,349,236
Accrued interest--restricted .	238,585	238,585	276,818	276,818
Money market accounts	2,202,000	2,202,000	340,000	340,000
Uninvested cash	518	518	661,341	661,341
	10,761,606	10,942,788	9,897,626	10,627,395
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building:				
U. S. Government obligations .	562,692	558,658	538,776	547,472
Other:				
U. S. Government obligations .	14,862,020	14,940,676	16,689,981	16,735,505
Certificates of deposit . . .	1,300,000	1,300,000	900,000	900,000
Repurchase Agreements	2,050,000	2,050,000	950,000	950,000
	18,212,020	18,290,676	18,539,981	18,585,505
Total investments	$29,536,318	$29,792,122	$28,976,383	$29,760,372

NOTE 3--CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

The Legion has entered into a lease agreement (which is accounted for as a capital lease) for the rental of a copier. The Legion has an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the original lease term at its fair market value. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased copier. Cost and accumulated amortization of the capitalized lease was $128,395 and $42,798 at December 31, 1987 and $128,395 and $21,399 at December 31, 1986. Future minimum payments on the copier lease, together with the present value of the payments, is as follows:

Years ending December 31:	
1988	$ 31,397
1989	31,397
1990	31,397
1991	31,397
1992	2,618
Total future minimum payments	128,206
Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 13%)	29,442
Present value of future minimum payments	$ 98,764

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately $129,000 in 1987 and $115,000 in 1986.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1989. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated $288,000 in 1987 and $313,000 in 1986. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1993.

NOTE 4--RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's net income to the Restricted Fund. The effect of this for 1987 is $133,215.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

NOTE 5--APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers during 1987 between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds at December 31, 1987 and 1986 were as follows:

Computer Reserve	$ 500,000
Real Estate Reserve	841,977
Convention Reserve	100,000
Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve	100,000
Totals	$1,541,977

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 6--NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1987 are as follows:

	Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund
Revenue:		
Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected . .		$ 722,339
Investment income	$ 58,921	721,619
	58,921	1,443,958
Expenses:		
Membership dues withdrawn		544,245
Decoration of graves:		
European Theatre	13,185	
Philippine Islands	500	
Administrative expense		109,101
Trust fees		22,585
	13,685	675,931
Excess of revenue over expenses	45,236	768,027
Fund balances, January 1, 1987	652,661	6,223,407
Fund balances, December 31, 1987	$697,897	$6,991,434

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

	December 31			
	1987		1986	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations . .	$ 664,047	$ 667,027	$ 607,822	$ 640,013
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:				
U. S. Government obligations . .	$4,002,969	$4,132,627	$3,399,281	$3,648,562
Money market accounts	1,118,043	1,118,043	1,329,679	1,329,679
Common stocks	1,553,924	1,736,773	1,238,953	1,588,828
Total investments	$6,674,936	$6,987,443	$5,967,913	$6,567,069

NOTE 7--AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $1,897,584 at December 31, 1987, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to $569,256 in 1987 and $715,765 in 1986.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 8--LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurors, which aggregate to $5,723,016 as of December 31, 1987, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.

(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.

(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.

(d) To make refunds to the participants.

(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1987, $879,850 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1988.

NOTE 9--PENSION PLAN:

During 1986, the Legion adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, "Employers' Accounting for Pensions" (SFAS 87).

The funded status of the plan at the end of the year was:

	December 31	
	1987	1986
Actuarial present value of plan benefits:		
Vested	$(9,763,724)	$(10,419,009)
Nonvested	(1,251,592)	(1,247,315)
Accumulated benefit obligation	(11,015,316)	(11,666,324)
Effect of future salary increases	(126,300)	(44,391)
Projected benefit obligation	(11,141,616)	(11,710,715)
Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stock, bonds, and U. S. securities	18,592,977	18,233,926
Excess of plan assets over projected benefit obligation.	7,451,361	6,523,211
Unrecognized net gain	(2,102,550)	(1,556,796)
Unrecognized net asset at end of year	(4,011,614)	(4,304,976)
Prepaid pension expense	$ 1,337,197	$ 661,439

Net pension expense (credit) for 1987 and 1986 included the following components:

	1987	1986
Service cost--benefits earned during the year	$ 497,694	$ 455,294
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	878,428	823,909
Actual return on assets	(699,782)	(2,889,347)
Net amortization and deferral	(976,058)	1,417,320
Net pension expense (credit)	$(299,718)	$(192,824)

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 8.25 and 5%, respectively, for 1987 and 7.75 and 5%, respectively, for 1986. The assumed rate of return on plan assets for 1987 and 1986 was 7.5 and 7.75%, respectively.

NOTE 10--LITIGATION:

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

GSO
GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Mr. James P. Dean, National Commander
The American Legion
  National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

OPINION ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

We have examined and reported separately on the basic financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1987 and 1986 and for the year ended December 31, 1987.

The examinations referred to above were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on those financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters taken as a whole. The supplementary information as listed in the accompanying table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 31, 1988

PRACTICE OFFICE LOCATIONS
INDIANAPOLIS FORT WAYNE MUNCIE
BLOOMINGTON HIGHLAND RICHMOND
EVANSVILLE MERRILLVILLE VALPARAISO

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN GROUP
OF CPA FIRMS WITH
OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL U.S. CITIES

MEMBER OF DUNWOODY ROBSON
McGLADREY & PULLEN
WITH OFFICES INTERNATIONALLY

Schedule 1

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue
And Expenses by Function
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	General Functions						Self-Supporting Functions		
	National Officers, Commissions And Committees	Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis)	External Activities (primarily Washington, D. C.)	Administration Indianapolis	Administration Washington, D. C.	Total General Functions	Emblem Division	Publications Division	Total All Functions
REVENUE:									
National dues		$ 7,779,777	$ 713,551			$ 8,493,328		$ 7,080,366	$15,573,694
Sales of Emblem items							$5,216,177		5,216,177
Advertising revenue								5,141,562	5,141,562
Investment income		1,578,620				1,578,620			1,578,620
Direct membership solicitation		2,050,336				2,050,336			2,050,336
Revenue enhancement		376,644				376,644			376,644
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income		170,777	398,479			569,256			569,256
Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund		741,159	58,620	$ 47,428		847,207			847,207
Other restricted income		237,746				237,746			237,746
Other income	$ 5,000	648,564	53,026	120,331	$ 6,000	832,921	205,937	53,593	1,092,451
	5,000	13,583,623	1,223,676	167,759	6,000	14,986,058	5,422,114	12,275,521	32,683,693
EXPENSES:									
Salaries	246,380	2,316,513	1,738,541	830,302	461,802	5,593,538	500,423	383,662	6,477,623
Employee benefits		683,448				683,448			683,448
Cost of sales				36,536		36,536	3,263,383	528,197	3,828,116
Direct publication expenses								8,991,127	8,991,127
Executive and staff travel	252,967	159,294	84,149	18,045	12,911	527,366	24,463	21,753	573,582
Commission and committee	1,211,572					1,211,572			1,211,572
Operational	7,882	4,086,848	88,626	75,058	30,142	4,288,556	235,857	54,800	4,579,213
Office	2,171	2,718,337	138,797	72,099	70,855	3,002,259	245,900	159,042	3,407,201
Occupancy		288,875		270,464	158,529	717,868	28,436	51,617	797,921
Special projects and programs	63,004	373,349	371,035	(99,709)	125,056	832,735	368,102	583,239	1,784,076
	1,783,976	10,626,664	2,421,148	1,202,795	859,295	16,893,878	4,666,564	10,773,437	32,333,879
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	$(1,778,976)	$ 2,956,959	$(1,197,472)	$(1,035,036)	$(853,295)	$(1,907,820)	$ 755,550	$ 1,502,084	$ 349,814

Schedule 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial
Statements to Internal Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 1987

	Total Current Fund
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES--INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Page 2	$349,814
ADD:	
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials--principally The Restricted Fund--exhibit B, sheet 2 (page 7)	644,343
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES--AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS--exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 5)	$994,157